






KEY POINTS

- 

Housing fund
 - A dedicated 'Affordable Housing Fund' to be funded from shortfall in priority sector
- 

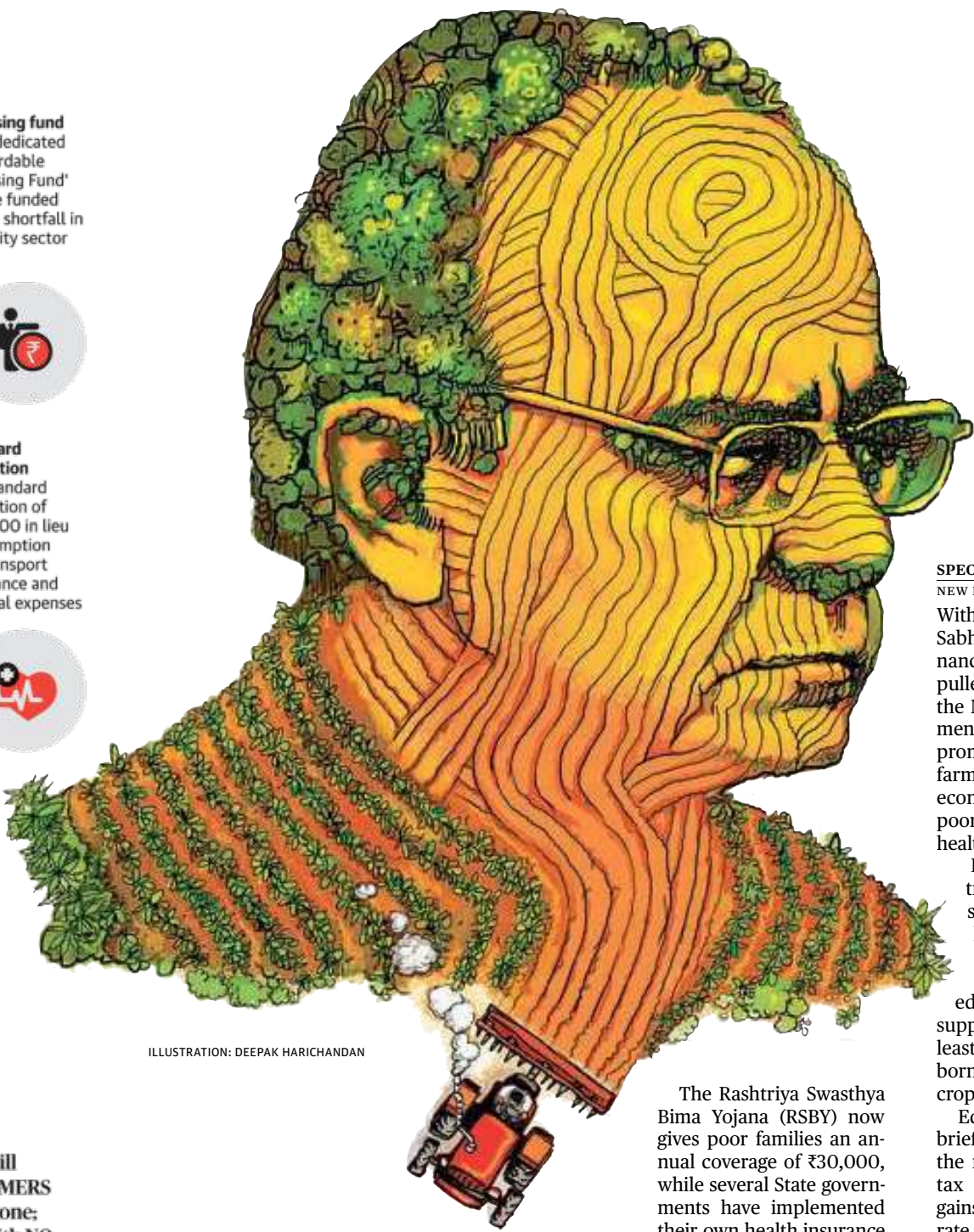
Capital gains
 - Budget proposes taxing long-term capital gains over ₹1 lakh at the rate of 10% without allowing indexation benefit
- 

Standard deduction
 - A standard deduction of ₹40,000 in lieu of exemption for transport allowance and medical expenses
- 

Health Insurance
 - A 'National Health Protection Scheme' (coverage up to ₹5 lakh) for over 10 crore poor families
- 

Agriculture
 - With 86% of farmers, small and marginal, the Budget proposes to help facilitate market access by upgrading 22,000 rural 'haats' into Gramin Agricultural Markets

ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN



In a pre-election Budget, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley serves up a mix of populism and prudence

SUTRA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With a clear eye on the Lok Sabha election, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley pulled out all the stops in the Narendra Modi government's last full Budget to promise a better deal for farmers, boost the rural economy and make the poor less vulnerable to health exigencies.

Responding to the distress in the agriculture sector that has reared its head in various States over the past year, the government has decided to offer a minimum support price (MSP) of at least 1.5 times the expenses borne by farmers for all crops.

Equity markets were briefly spooked following the move to reintroduce a tax on long-term capital gains on equity shares at the rate of 10% for all gains over ₹1 lakh. No indexation benefit will be granted and the securities transaction tax will continue.

The BSE Sensex, which opened at 36,048.99, slipped to 35,501 during Mr. Jaitley's speech before recovering to close at 35,906 points.

Notably, the middle-class constituency that played a key part in the BJP's successful 2014 campaign was largely left high and dry. Despite some token measures, such as footing part of the bill for new employees' provident fund (PF) contributions for three years, Mr. Jaitley offered little respite to the salaried class.

Citing income tax data to

The focus of the Budget is farmers, rural India, healthcare and education

ARUN JAITLEY
Finance Minister

show that individual businesspersons paid less average tax than the salaried class, he reintroduced a flat ₹40,000 deduction from taxable income for the latter in lieu of the existing tax exemptions for transport and medical allowance and extended this relief to pensioners.

But any gain in take-home salaries has been virtually offset by raising the 3% education cess levied on personal income tax and corporate tax. Now, a 4% education and healthcare cess will apply.

Hopes of a respite for consumers on the indirect tax front was also extinguished in this Budget, with the Centre hiking customs duties on a range of products, including mobile phones, wearable devices, television display panels, furniture, diamonds, footwear, cosmetics and dental floss.

The idea is to push global producers to start making these goods in India, but till that happens, consumers will need to foot higher costs.

A much-anticipated rationalisation of the high excise duties on petrol and diesel was carried out with a ₹8 reduction in these duties, but consumers will get no relief as a new road and infrastructure cess of ₹8 per

litre has been levied to fund projects. Unlike excise duties, the Centre is not required to share cess receipts with the States.

The government's inability to give away too many goodies were largely due to its fiscal constraints, with this year's fiscal deficit overshooting the 3.2% of GDP target and likely to touch 3.5% on account of the GST-related issues. Instead of a 3% deficit in the coming year, the Centre settled to target the 3.3% mark, deferring the glide path to 3% to 2020-21.

Mr. Jaitley said the focus of the Budget – farmers, rural India, healthcare and education for the poor – reflected the Modi government's emphasis on improving the ease of living for the common man.

Comparisons with UPA-I's last Budget, with its farm loan waiver and the NREGA expansion, would be simplistic.

This one is actually similar to the Budget unveiled by Jaswant Singh in 2003-04, which talked of improving the 'lifetime concerns' of citizens, announced a new health insurance scheme and focussed on housing, education and employment too.

UNION BUDGET
18-19

Mobile phones to become costlier

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has raised customs duty on several products. Imported high-end mobile phones, like the iPhone, will become costlier

Long-term capital gains tax back

It was a volatile day for equity markets. They opened strong, but fell in the afternoon session after the reintroduction of long-term capital gains tax was announced

Digital India spend to double

The Budget proposes to double expenditure on the flagship Digital India programme to ₹3,073 crore for the next fiscal. The plan has been welcomed by the industry

Modest hike in defence allocation

The allocation for defence has gone up modestly to ₹2.95 lakh crore, excluding pensions, raising doubts over new acquisitions

Highest allocation for Railways

In the highest-ever allocation, the Centre announced a capital expenditure of ₹1,48,528 crore for the Railways. A large part of this will be used for capacity addition

EDITORIAL
Promise and delivery

Arun Jaitley's Budget for 2018-19 will be judged by whether it can bridge the gap

REACTION

4 years gone; still promising FARMERS a fair price. 4 years gone; FANCY SCHEMES, with NO matching budgets. 4 years gone; no JOBS for our YOUTH. Thankfully, only 1 more year to go. #Budget2018

RAHUL GANDHI
Congress president



The Finance Minister fails the fiscal consolidation test and this failure will have serious consequences

P. CHIDAMBARAM
Former Finance Minister



The minimum support price is only for the upcoming kharif crop, keeping elections in mind

SITARAM YECHEURY
CPI(M) general secretary



This is the first concrete step towards ... implementing the Swaminathan Commission recommendation of ensuring a 100% profit on farmers' cost of production

PARKASH SINGH BADAL
Former Punjab CM and Shiromani Akali Dal leader



This is an inclusive budget, which will prove crucial in building 'New India'

VIJAY RUPANI
Gujarat Chief Minister



A helping hand in times of health crises

Budget proposes protection scheme to cover 10 crore poor households

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday unveiled an ambitious plan to launch "the world's largest government-funded health care programme" that will benefit 10 crore households.

The proposed National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) will provide cover-

age of up to ₹5 lakh per family annually to take care of secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation costs. Mr. Jaitley reckoned that this will benefit around 50 crore people from poor and vulnerable families. The Budget for 2016-17 had a similar announcement offering a ₹1 lakh cover for 8 crore families, but that's yet to take off.

The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) now gives poor families an annual coverage of ₹30,000, while several State governments have implemented their own health insurance schemes with varying coverage levels.

"My government has now decided to take health protection to a more aspirational level," Mr. Jaitley said.

"We have provided ₹2,000 crore for the next financial year under this scheme," Expenditure Secretary Ajay Narayan Jha said at a press conference after the Budget.

"Once the contours take shape, the details will be worked out," Mr. Jha said. "The present RSBY scheme will be modified for this," he said.

YUSHMAN BHARAT: THE BIG BUDGET SCHEME ► PAGE 7

'Old is Gold' in young India

Deduction for health insurance premium raised from ₹30,000 to ₹50,000

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The salaried class may feel hard done by and the young may not see a swift surge in employment opportunities as a result of the Budget proposals. However, the Modi government, which will face elections next year, has made sure it will have the blessings of elders.

"A life with dignity is a right of every individual, in general, more so for the senior citizens," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said in his Budget speech.

"To take care of those who cared for us is one of the highest honours," he

stressed, before laying out a series of steps to give them a 'dignified life.'

Top government sources said the specific measures outlined to alleviate the lot of senior citizens were based on the feedback from retired persons on the crisis they faced in recent months owing to the dipping interest rates on savings instruments, including on small savings schemes.

Mr. Jaitley made an effort to ease the cash flows of senior citizens that are largely dependent on interest income. The exemption limit on interest income on bank and post



citizens depend heavily on interest income.

office deposits has been raised from ₹10,000 to ₹50,000 a year.

The deduction available for health insurance premium and medical expenditure has been raised

from ₹30,000 to ₹50,000. Deductions for medical expenditure on certain critical illnesses have been hiked to ₹1 lakh for all senior citizens, up from the prevailing levels of ₹60,000 for senior citizens and ₹80,000 for very senior citizens.

While these concessions are worth ₹4,000 crore, the government also extended the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana up to March 2020, which assures an 8% return, and raised the investment cap from ₹7.5 lakh to ₹15 lakh.

GOVT. READS GROUND SIGNALS FROM GUJARAT ► PAGE 18

Congress sweeps by-elections in Rajasthan

Massive margins a jolt for BJP; Trinamool Congress bags Uluberia, Noapara seats

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR/KOLKATA

In a setback to the NDA, the Congress registered an impressive victory in the three by-elections in Rajasthan, while the Trinamool Congress made a clean sweep in West Bengal.

The Congress wrested two Lok Sabha seats – Alwar and Ajmer – and one Assembly seat, Mandalgarh, from the ruling BJP in the western State with huge margins. The Trinamool won the Uluberia Lok Sabha and Noapara Assembly constituencies.

With Rajasthan due to hold Assembly elections in a few months, a resurgent Congress will pose a serious challenge to the BJP. The party's victory in the byelections, being touted as the "semi-finals," is being interpreted as a "people's verdict" against the Vasundhara Raje government's "failure and arrogance."

Congress president Rahul Gandhi hailed the party's impressive show and called the outcome a "rejection" of the BJP by the people. "Well done Rajasthan Congress!

Proud of each and every one of you. This is a rejection of the BJP by the people of Rajasthan," he tweeted.

In Alwar, Karan Singh Yadav of the Congress defeated the BJP's Jaswant Yadav by a margin of 1,96,496 votes, while Congress candidate Raghu Sharma defeated his BJP rival Ramswarup Lamba in Ajmer by 84,414 votes.

In the Mandalgarh Assembly constituency, the Congress's Vivek Dhakar trounced the BJP's Shakti Singh Hada by 12,976 votes. Hundreds of Congress

workers burst firecrackers and distributed sweets outside the Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters in Jaipur as the trends became clear.

State Congress president Sachin Pilot, who stayed in Ajmer and criss-crossed the three constituencies during electioneering, was carried inside the building on the shoulders of jubilant party workers.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 18
SONIA CALLS FOR OPPOSITION UNITY ► PAGE 18

CJI brings out roster to allot cases

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

After an unprecedented press conference by four senior-most Supreme Court judges on January 12 over "selective" allocation of cases and amid subsequent parleys to resolve the rift, Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra on Thursday published a subject-wise roster for allocation of cases to various Benches to be implemented from February 5.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 18

THE ENTIRE
ALS TEAM
NOW ALSO AT
KAROL BAGH

ALS GS STRATEGIST TEAM AT KAROL BAGH

JOJO MATHEW, HEMANT JHA, R.C. SINHA, MANISH GAUTAM, SHASHANK ATOM, SACHIN ARORA, DHARMENDRA, K.M. PATHI, DR. SANJAY PANDEY, AJAY SRIVASTAVA AND OTHER EXPERTS

General Studies
Strategist Plus FOUNDATION 2019

BATCH BEGINS AT
KAROL BAGH
12 FEB, 06:15pm

BATCH BEGINS AT
SHALIMAR PLACE
25 FEB, 07:30am

ALS

Alternative Learning Systems

KAROL BAGH

9999648884

20 Pusa Road, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station, Opposite Metro Pillar No. 97, Delhi-05.
A-Block, Plot-II, Shalimar Place, Outer Ring Road, Hyderabad-Badli Metro Station, Delhi-88.
B-19, ALS House, Commercial Complex, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-09.

ENQUIRY


SHALIMAR PLACE

9891591122

DR. MUKHERJEE NAGAR

9999343999

Online Registration also available, visit us at www.alsias.net



BUDGET 2018

Breaking it down

What it is...

The budget proposes a dedicated Affordable Housing Fund to be funded from the shortfall in priority sector lending and fully serviced bonds

How it works...

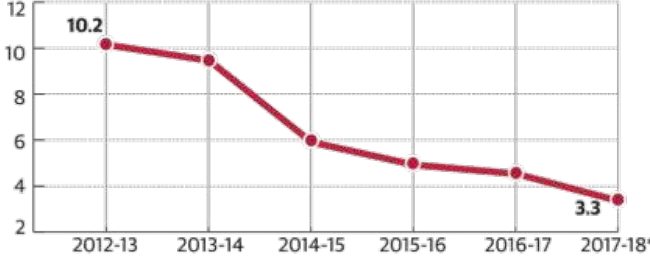
Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for affordable housing, a credit linked subsidy of ₹1 lakh-2.3 lakh is provided to home buyers from among the urban poor

Why it matters...


Finding dedicated resources to fund affordable housing will make it easier for the urban poor to access lower cost loans provided under the scheme

Price rise reined in


Inflation has been kept under control in the past four years. But increasing crude prices since mid-2017 could have an effect, the Economic Survey-2018 warns. This budget tries to limit the fiscal deficit keeping this in mind



Year	CPI inflation in %
2012-13	10.2
2013-14	9.9
2014-15	6.2
2015-16	5.1
2016-17	4.8
2017-18*	3.3



Thrust for tourism with investment meant for transport infrastructure... creation of 5 lakh Wi-Fi hotspots is welcome
Bhavish Aggarwal
Co-founder & CEO, Ola



FIRST TAKE

ALOK AGRAWAL
is Senior Director, Deloitte India

Budget cheer for senior citizens

lthough there have been no changes in the personal tax slab rates in the final pre-election Budget announced by the Finance Minister (FM), here are some of the key amendments personal tax proposed:

Standard deduction will now be available on salary income. It is proposed that instead of the tax-free limit of ₹15,000 for medical expense reimbursement by employer, transport allowance exemption of ₹1,600 per month (₹19,200 annually) and a standard deduction of ₹40,000 would be allowed as a deduction from taxable salary income. The transport allowance exemption is however, continued for differently-abled salaried individuals.

Introduction of health and education cess: presently, “education cess” (at 2%) and “secondary and higher education cess” (at 1%) is applicable on every individual’s tax liability (including surcharge). It is now proposed to discontinue these cesses and introduce a combined “health and education cess” at a higher rate of 4%. Due to this increased levy, the effective peak rates will increase to 10.4%, 20.8%, 31.2%, 34.32%, 35.88% depending on the income levels.

Re-introduction of long-term capital gains tax (LTCG) on gains arising from the transfer of long-term listed equity shares and equity-oriented mutual funds: presently, LTCG from the sale of equity shares and units of equity-oriented mutual funds on which securities transaction tax (STT) has been paid at the time of sale is exempt from tax.

The FM has proposed to withdraw this exemption starting April 1, 2018 and levy a tax of 10% on such LTCG. While there will be no indexation benefit allowed while computing such LTCG, the first ₹1 lakh would not be taxable. The only consolation factor in this new levy is that the appreciation in value of shares up to January 31, 2018 would be grandfathered.

Relief for senior citizens: There are some positive proposals for senior citizens in this budget.

They would be now entitled to a higher tax-free interest income of ₹50,000 against present limit of ₹10,000.

Further, this new limit also includes interest earned on fixed deposits (which is not the case for other taxpayers).

Consequently, the requirement for banks to withhold income-tax at source has been done away with for interest income payable to senior citizens upto the new limit of ₹50,000.

Deduction limit for health insurance premium/preventive health checkup/ medical expenses for senior citizens is proposed to be raised from ₹30,000 to ₹50,000.

Deduction will now be available up to ₹1 lakh (as against present limits of ₹60,000 for senior citizens/₹80,000 for very senior citizens) for medical treatment of specified diseases.

All in all, while most salaried individual taxpayers may feel disappointed with the lack of additional incentives for housing loans and enhancement to deduction under Section 80C, at least the senior citizens should be happier with the above Budget proposals – as they say....“Life begins at 60”!!!

LOCAL MANUFACTURE

TV prices to rise; industry hails increase in duty

Higher duty would bolster local manufacturing; head honchos say price increases would be temporary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

elelevision prices will rise as the government increased customs duty on imported panels and other parts used in its manufacturing. However, makers expect the move to help the industry in the long run.

Terming the customs duty increase as a “logical step”, TV manufacturers have welcomed the government’s move saying it would help the domestic manufacturing industry.

While, presenting the Budget, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley proposed to double customs duty on imported panels to 15% from

existing the 7.5%. The government has also increased the customs duty on parts of LCD/LED/OLED TVs to 15% from the existing 10% to boost domestic manufacturing.

The Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA) said the impact of the price increase would be “momentary” and have temporary impact.

“I believe that this is a very logical step in terms of increasing configuration in the country... It would have a momentary impact but eventually it would not last more than two months,” CEAMA President Manish

Sharma said. The move will not only help the domestic players but also push them to develop capacities for manufacturing components locally.

“I am sure that this would be very positively taken by most manufacturers. There might be a case of a momentary hike in cost, till

the time people become ready for open set manufacturing,” he said.

It would also encourage “reverse integration” and “increase the value addition in the country”, he said.

“This would encourage open set assembly in India and price benefits would be passed on to the consumers,” he said, adding that most companies here were doing open set assembling and some were importing panels.

Homegrown consumer electronics firm Videocon said the move would encourage domestic manufacturing and would help the companies engaged

measures including higher MSPs for Kharif crops, up-front agriculture focus, institutional support for price discovery and upgradation of rural haats to give farmers better access to formal mandis,” Dabur India chief executive officer Sunil Duggal said.

Expressing similar views, Marico MD & CEO Saugata Gupta said: “It is all-inclusive, forward-looking and has a strong thrust on agri-

culture, rural, MSME, healthcare, infrastructure and employment, which augurs well for FMCG companies.”

While a slew of investment was announced mostly catering to the rural economy, the government has let go on the fiscal consolidation roadmap.

As a result, fiscal deficit for current fiscal will be 3.5% of the GDP as against 3.2% previously targeted, and 3.3% in FY’19 as opposed to 3% previously targeted.

Addressing price rise

With food inflation increasing to 4.4% in November 2017 – due to perishables and vegetable prices going up to 22.5% – it is understandable why the Budget proposes “Operation Greens” to promote farmer producers’ organisations for agri-logistics, processing facilities and supply-chain management. ₹500 crore has been allocated for this initiative

Group	Dec. 2016	Nov. 2017
CPI-COMBINED INFLATION	3.4	4.9
CONSUMER FOOD PRICE INDEX	1.4	4.4
CPI EXCLUDING FOOD AND FUEL	4.9	4.9
Cereals & products	5.3	5.3
Milk & products	4.3	4.3
Food & beverages	4.4	4.4
Pulses & products	-1.6	-1.6
Vegetables	-14.5	-23.6
Fuel & Light	3.8	3.8

Prices spiralled due to demand supply gap, unfavourable weather, rise in transport costs and supply chain constraints

Disposable income set to rise

Slew of measures will fuel rural and agrarian economy, say FMCG firms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

onsumer goods companies on Thursday termed the Budget 2018 as forward-looking which will fuel the rural and agrarian economy, besides increasing disposable income for the common man and drive demand for mass products.

Unveiling the last full Budget before general elections, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced a slew of measures for the agriculture and rural sectors as also a

new health insurance scheme for the poor.

In a major bonanza to farmers, Mr. Jaitley announced fixing support price of Kharif crops like paddy at least 50% higher than the cost of production, while raising farm credit target for the next fiscal by 10% to ₹11 lakh crore.

“It presses all the right buttons when it comes to fueling the rural and agrarian economy with a slew of

Increased spending in the rural areas and agriculture sector would benefit the auto sector, feel analysts. Besides higher allocation for construction of roads will also benefit the sector, they added. The government has allocated ₹5.97 lakh crore for infrastructure and the transportation sector has got an all time high allocation of ₹1,34,572 crore.

“Increased allocation for infrastructure projects such as National Highways (target completion in FY17-18 is 9000 KMs) and Bharat Mala project (target completion of 35,000km in Phase 1 at cost of ₹5.35 lakh crore) for seamless connectivity in the Union Budget should give much needed push to the sector especially the Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicles segment,” said Rajeev Singh, Automotive Sector Leader in Deloitte.

“Good rural focus (credit for agricultural activities increased from ₹10 lakh crore to ₹11 lakh crore) will primarily help to boost retail growth in rural market and thereby bring more growth in auto industry,” he said.

For example, the higher minimum purchase price for crops will boost rural income thus driving demand for two wheelers, farm equipment’s and LCVs (light commercial vehicles) in rural areas.

However, the imported luxury car industry will be affected due to increase in basic customs duty. “With doubling of the BCD rate for

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Increased spending in the rural areas and agriculture sector would benefit the auto sector, feel analysts. Besides higher allocation for construction of roads will also benefit the sector, they added. The government has allocated ₹5.97 lakh crore for infrastructure and the transportation sector has got an all time high allocation of ₹1,34,572 crore.

“Increased allocation for infrastructure projects such as National Highways (target completion in FY17-18 is 9000 KMs) and Bharat Mala project (target completion of 35,000km in Phase 1 at cost of ₹5.35 lakh crore) for seamless connectivity in the Union Budget should give much needed push to the sector especially the Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicles segment,” said Rajeev Singh, Automotive Sector Leader in Deloitte.

“Good rural focus (credit for agricultural activities increased from ₹10 lakh crore to ₹11 lakh crore) will primarily help to boost retail growth in rural market and thereby bring more growth in auto industry,” he said.

For example, the higher minimum purchase price for crops will boost rural income thus driving demand for two wheelers, farm equipment’s and LCVs (light commercial vehicles) in rural areas.

However, the imported luxury car industry will be affected due to increase in basic customs duty. “With doubling of the BCD rate for

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Good rural focus will bring more growth in auto industry

RAJEEV SINGH,
Automotive Sector Leader in Deloitte

engines from a current levy of 7.5% to 15%, manufacturing cost of automobiles with imported engines is expected to see a steep rise,” Abhishek Jain, Tax Partner, Automotive sector, EY India said.

“The costs further being stressed with increase in BCD rates for various parts and accessories as well as seats. While these would typically impact auto manufacturers in India who import parts of the vehicle, similar impact is expected to be sensed by those importing motor vehicles in CKD forms as well,” he said.

Rahil Ansari, Head Audi India, said, “For the luxury auto sector, the Union Budget 2018-19 is disappointing and is against the spirit of partnership. As manufacturers, we have a core social responsibility towards our workforce and the dealer network.”

He said the Increase in custom duty and introduction of Social Welfare Surcharge in lieu of an Education Cess (which is higher than the erstwhile Cess), was going to definitely affect the prices again, which will further confuse the customer.

He also said that lack of concrete measures for government’s ambitious E-mobility project was ‘surprising’.

duty hike. “The increase in the basic customs duty of auto parts, accessories and CKD components varying from 5% to 10%, clubbed with the new social welfare surcharge at 10% at a time when the auto industry is re-

viving, is unfortunate, and comes as a surprise,” said Roland Folger, MD and CEO, Mercedes-Benz India. “We believe it is going to impact the auto industry, the consumers,” Mr. Folger said adding, “The increase in basic customs duty will highly restrict the growth of the luxury car industry. Further, since the customers will be burdened

with higher maintenance costs, it is likely that this duty hike may delay their routine servicing, thereby affecting safety and environment at large,” he said.

“We are disappointed with the increase in customs duty on cut and polished diamonds and cut and polished coloured gemstones from 2.5% to 5%,” said Pramod Aggarwal, chairman, Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPIC).

“This move hampers India’s chances of becoming an international diamond trading hub. This move doesn’t provide India a level playing field vis-a-vis other peers such as Belgium, Dubai and Israel,” he said.

Budget to boost truck, tractor, 2-wheeler sales

Luxury car segment receives setback

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Increased spending in the rural areas and agriculture sector would benefit the auto sector, feel analysts. Besides higher allocation for construction of roads will also benefit the sector, they added. The government has allocated ₹5.97 lakh crore for infrastructure and the transportation sector has got an all time high allocation of ₹1,34,572 crore.

“Increased allocation for infrastructure projects such as National Highways (target completion in FY17-18 is 9000 KMs) and Bharat Mala project (target completion of 35,000km in Phase 1 at cost of ₹5.35 lakh crore) for seamless connectivity in the Union Budget should give much needed push to the sector especially the Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicles segment,” said Rajeev Singh, Automotive Sector Leader in Deloitte.

“Good rural focus (credit for agricultural activities increased from ₹10 lakh crore to ₹11 lakh crore) will primarily help to boost retail growth in rural market and thereby bring more growth in auto industry,” he said.

For example, the higher minimum purchase price for crops will boost rural income thus driving demand for two wheelers, farm equipment’s and LCVs (light commercial vehicles) in rural areas.

However, the imported luxury car industry will be affected due to increase in basic customs duty. “With doubling of the BCD rate for

Good rural focus will bring more growth in auto industry

RAJEEV SINGH,
Automotive Sector Leader in Deloitte

engines from a current levy of 7.5% to 15%, manufacturing cost of automobiles with imported engines is expected to see a steep rise,” Abhishek Jain, Tax Partner, Automotive sector, EY India said.

“The costs further being stressed with increase in BCD rates for various parts and accessories as well as seats. While these would typically impact auto manufacturers in India who import parts of the vehicle, similar impact is expected to be sensed by those importing motor vehicles in CKD forms as well,” he said.


Rahil Ansari, Head Audi India, said, “For the luxury auto sector, the Union Budget 2018-19 is disappointing and is against the spirit of partnership. As manufacturers, we have a core social responsibility towards our workforce and the dealer network.”

He said the Increase in custom duty and introduction of Social Welfare Surcharge in lieu of an Education Cess (which is higher than the erstwhile Cess), was going to definitely affect the prices again, which will further confuse the customer.

He also said that lack of concrete measures for government’s ambitious E-mobility project was ‘surprising’.

@Daily_English_Papers

Join@Daily_English_Papers



Breaking it down

What it is...

Fiscal deficit, also known as the budget deficit, occurs when the Union government's total expenditure exceeds the revenue that it generates

How it works...

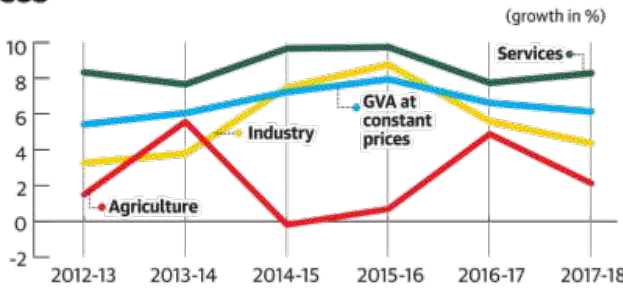
With GST revenue in 2017-18 set to accrue only in 11 months and given a shortfall in non-tax revenue, the Budget proposes revising the fiscal deficit to 3.5% of GDP


Why it matters...

With the fiscal deficit target for 2017-18 being wider and the need to stabilise GST revenue, the government has reset its deficit target for 2018-19 to 3.3%

Middling progress


Barring services, the gross value added in other sectors has declined in the last financial year. The steep fall in agriculture GVA is, in particular, a key concern for the Central government





The strategy appears to channelise spending to sectors having potential to maximise linkages

Rana Kapoor
MD & CEO, YES Bank



FIRST TAKE

PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN
Professor of Ashoka University and Senior Fellow of IIM, Kozhikode

Embracing the rural

Economists recognise the existence of a 'political business cycle' in western democracies generated by political parties using the Budget to boost the economy before elections.

There, an economy boosted reduces unemployment. In India, where the scale of unemployment is so great as to remain unaffected by small changes in allocation, politics must take another route. It tries to impact welfare. This is what the last Budget of the first Narendra Modi government attempts.

With mostly poor agricultural performance since 2014, a focus on the sector was expected. However, its privileging, evident in the Budget speech, must have surprised most. The Finance Minister (FM) appears to be making up for his government's near exclusive focus on corporate India over much of its tenure. Now it seems it is to be rural all the way.

At the very beginning of his speech, the FM spoke of his government's intention of enabling "farmers to produce more from the same land at lesser cost and simultaneously realise higher prices for their produce." The outcome of such a policy is not uniformly benign. Raising farm prices makes little sense at a time when agricultural prices have, on an average, been rising relative to other prices.

A further increase in agricultural prices via government intervention will lower the real income of the buyers of food, many of whom are among the poorest. In pursuit of the government's objective, the FM has announced

that the minimum support prices for the next kharif crop will rise. This will be inflationary.

Beyond food production, the Budget speech referred to a plan to build roads to connect rural India's farms and schools. Further, it aims to encourage clustering in horticulture production and marketing, increase the allocation for organic farming, provide cheaper credit to small farmers and create infrastructure funds for fisheries and animal husbandry.

Among the welfare measures announced, rural women are to receive free cooking gas through the 'Ujjwala Yojana' but above all, via 'Ayushman Bharat', the government is to provide 10 crore poor families health coverage of upto ₹5 lakh. The FM referred to it as "the world's largest government-funded health care programme." This is big. But what about growth? The macroeconomic thinking underlying the Budget is not particularly impressive.

As reflected by the decline in the growth rate in the last two financial years, the macroeconomic problem today is a shortage of demand. One part of this is attributable to contractionary macroeconomic policy – fiscal and monetary – since 2014. The second is a depressed farm sector in the medium term.

The agricultural sector has shown revival recently but gross capital formation in India has been declining with private corporate investment taking the lead. Standard reasoning would recommend raising demand either indirectly by lowering taxes or directly via public investment. Right now, it is the latter that is necessary as lower taxes may leave firms with higher savings but without incentive to invest if they don't see recovery ahead.

The increase in spending on capital account proposed in this Budget is less than what was budgeted for 2017-18. This says it all.

Bond yields rise as the government misses deficit target of 3.2%; analysts expect yields to remain elevated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The last full Budget of the Narendra Modi-led Bhartiya Janata Party government before the general elections due in 2019 missed the fiscal deficit target of 3.2% for 2017-18. This was attributed to revenues to be received under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) for 11 months, instead of 12. The revenue for March will be received in April.

The shortfall in GST revenue was ₹50,000 crore.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, in his Budget speech, said the fiscal deficit for 2017-18 would be ₹5.95 lakh crore,

which is 3.5% of GDP. The fiscal deficit for 2018-19 is pegged at 3.3%.

"In order to impart unquestionable credibility to the government's commitment for the revised fiscal glide path, I am proposing to accept key recommendations of the Fiscal Reform and Budget Management Committee relating to adoption of the Debt Rule and to bring down Central Government's Debt to GDP ratio to 40%," Mr. Jaitley said in his budget speech.

In the post-budget media interaction Mr. Jaitley said meeting the fiscal deficit tar-

get should not be a problem because the government would receive revenues for 12 months.

"We were getting the GST revenue for one month less this year. The March revenue will be received only in April. That statistical factor should be borne in mind when we calculate the difference between 3.5% and 3.2%. That really amounts for a substantial part of that," Mr. Jaitley said.

The government said the fiscal deficit target for next financial year would be 3.3% and 3.1% for the year after and then 3% for 2020-21.

Bond prices slumped as the government missed the fiscal deficit target with the yield on 10 year government bond shot up 17 bps to end the day at 7.6%.

"The government's decision to stray from the fiscal glide path of getting to a level of 3.2% this year and 3.0% the next could also weigh on market sentiment, especially when we are in the middle of a selling mania," economists at HDFC Bank said in a note to its clients.

"Therefore, we expect the bond yields to remain elevated

and trade in the range of 7.45% to 7.55% in the near-term," it said.

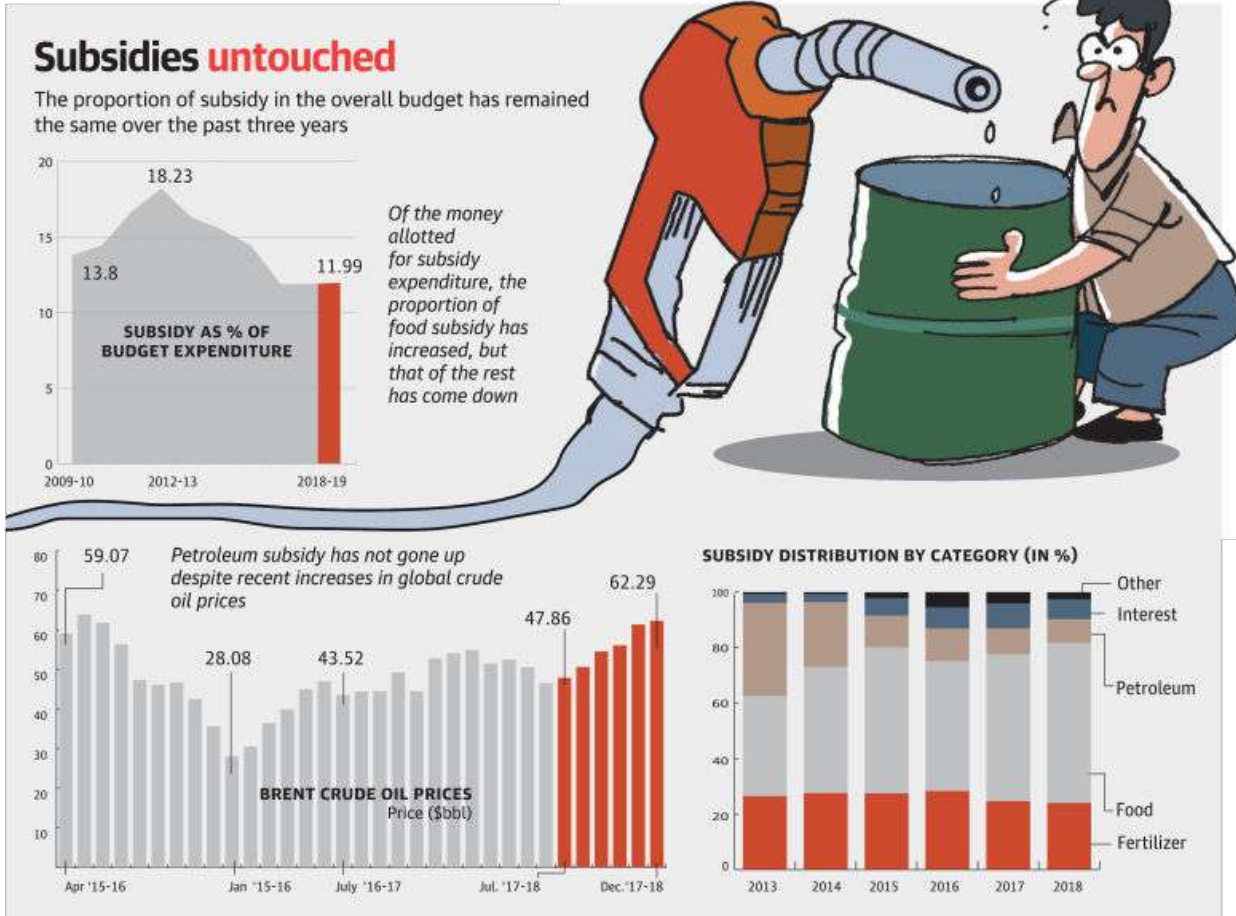
Government borrowing
The government pegged its net market borrowing at ₹4.62 tn in FY19 (excluding buyback and switches), which is in line with what the market had estimated.

Mr. Jaitley said the country had seen average growth of 7.5% in the first three years of the current government's reign and GDP growth at 6.3% in the second quarter signaled a turna-

round of the economy and 'firmly on course to achieve 8% growth'.

"We hope to grow at 7.2% to 7.5% in the second half. IMF, in its latest update, has forecast that India will grow at 7.4% next year. Manufacturing sector is back on a good growth path," the Finance Minister said.

"The services, mainstay of our growth, have also resumed their high growth rates of 8% plus. Our exports are expected to grow at 15% in 2017-18. We are now firmly on course to achieve high growth of 8% plus," Mr. Jaitley said.



₹80,000 cr. target for divestment reachable

'Current year's margin fuels optimism'

INDRANI DUTTA
KOLKATA

The ₹80,000-crore target set for 2018-19 by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on divestment is achievable, says former divestment secretary Sunil Mitra, who was also revenue and finance secretary.

"The very fact that the current year's target was exceeded by a healthy margin paves the way for this optimism," he said.

The 2017-18 Budget Estimates for divestment were pegged at ₹72,500 crore. This has been exceeded, Mr. Jaitley said, adding that he was assuming receipts of ₹1,00,000 crore in 2017-18. The 2018-19 divestment target is pegged at ₹80,000 crore, the Finance Minister said.

The government has approved listing of 14 CPSEs, including two insurance companies, on the stock exchanges. The government has also initiated the process of strategic divestment in 24 CPSEs. This includes strategic privatisation of Air India.

Two part guidelines dated January 2018 has been hosted on the official website of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).

The government introduced Exchange Traded Fund Bharat-22 to raise ₹14,500 crore, which was over-subscribed in all segments, Mr. Jaitley said.

DIPAM will come up with more ETF offers, including debt ETF. Ashish Kumar Chouhan, MD & CEO, BSE said that the divestment move augured well for the capital market.

About ₹40,000 cr. was raised in 2010-11 via divestment of firms like NHPC

SUNIL MITRA,
Former divestment secy.

Mr. Mitra said that during his time, about ₹40,000 crore was raised in 2010-11 through the divestment of companies like NHPC, Oil India and Mineral development Corporation. "However, these were done through the route of listing through the market discovery route," he said.

Abhishek Rastogi, Partner Khaitan & Co., said that bigger divestment receipts and profits from PSUs could help government cover up the shortfall in non-tax revenues attributed by the Minister to deferment of spectrum auction.

'Acceptable to unions'
Since 1991 and post liberalisation, the Centre's divestment policy has evolved over time and now seems to have become more acceptable to the trade unions against virulent opposition that was mounted at the outset especially by the Left trade unions.

Under the present policy, the government pursues divestment mainly through minority stake sale in listed CPSEs, the government will retain control through a 51% holding.

However, strategic divestment through sale of substantial government stake of upto 50% or more alongwith transfer of government control is also possible in certain identified CPSEs according to official sources.

Mega insurance firm in offing

Merger of 3 state-run insurers to raise efficiencies, may lift combined valuation

OOMMEN A. NINAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The proposed merger of three general insurers would create a mega insurance company in the public sector domain and the consolidated entity is likely to come out with a public issue.

Currently, there are four public sector insurance companies: New India Assurance, National Insurance, Oriental Insurance and United India Insurance.

Under the Gross Direct Premium underwritten up to December, in the current fiscal, New India Assurance was at ₹16,806.45 crore; Na-

tional Insurance ₹11,732.21 crore; Oriental Insurance ₹8,396.18; and United India Insurance was at ₹11,987.03 crore. The proposed insurance company's premium would be at more than ₹30,000 crore.

"The consolidation... is a step in the right direction and would lay the foundation for the merged entity to become collectively stronger," said Khushroo B. Panthaky, director, Grant Thornton Advisory.

Further, Mr. Panthaky said that these state-owned

companies were based in different regions and therefore were not in the best position to scale up across the country.


The suggestion for consolidation came from the All India Insurance Employees Association (AIIEA) - Secretary of Standing Committee and would result in elimination of competition between the three PSU companies, reducing marketing expenses, raising cost efficiencies, streamlining of processes and systems by adopting the best prevailing,

and finally, enabling an increase in the risk retention capacity, which directly results in saving in the cash outflow of re-insurance premiums.

The listing of the merged entity also gives the opportunity to the government to optimise on the divestment front as it enhances the valuation of the entity. The consolidation and subsequent listing is step towards enhanced penetration of general insurance business by the public sector, that would result in higher mobilisation of funds for general insurance products.

Reform push
Mr. Jaitley said in his FY'19 Budget speech that as a result of the reforms undertaken by the government, the FDI had gone up. There is a financial outlay of ₹281 crore in FY'19 for Scheme of Investment

specified time, would be reckoned as part of equity under the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy and eligible to be issued to persons residing outside India under the FDI scheme in terms of Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer and Issue of shares by a Person Resident outside India) Regulations.



Hybrid instruments can help attract foreign investments, especially in start-ups, said Arun Jaitley.

debentures which are intrinsically debt-like instruments. It said in June 2007 that, "Routing of debt flows through the FDI route circumvents the framework

in place for regulating debt flows into the country." The RBI then clarified that only instruments that are fully and mandatorily convertible into equity, within a

OUTWARD INVESTMENT

'Separate policies soon on outward direct investment, hybrid instruments'

With ODI at \$15 billion per annum, the Centre will review existing guidelines and bring out an integrated policy, says Jaitley

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government will bring out separate policies on Outward Direct Investment (ODI) as well as hybrid instruments, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said on Thursday.

Pointing out that ODI from India was about \$15 billion per annum, Mr. Jaitley said in his 2018-19 Budget speech that "the government will review existing guidelines and processes and bring out a coherent and integrated ODI policy."

He also said that the government would evolve a separate policy for hybrid in-


struments, adding that "hybrid instruments are suitable for attracting foreign investments in several niche areas, especially for the start-ups and venture capital firms."

In his Budget 2016-17 announcements, Mr. Jaitley had said, "The basket of eligible FDI instruments will be expanded to include hybrid instruments subject to certain conditions."

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had pointed out that some Indian companies were raising funds under the FDI route through issue of hybrid instruments such as optionally convertible/ partially convertible

Join@Daily_English_Papers

Join@Daily_English_Papers



Breaking it down

What it is...

Long term capital gain is made while selling shares, units of equity funds or business trusts that have been held for more than 12 months

How it works...

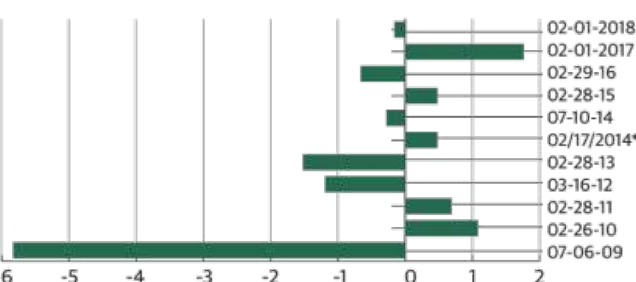
Proposal entails taxing long term capital gains over ₹1 lakh at 10% without allowing indexation benefit. But all gains up to January 31 will be 'grandfathered'

Why it matters...

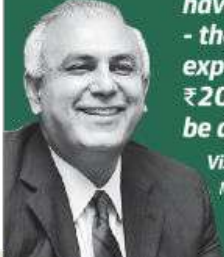
LTCG, abolished in 2004-05, was replaced by the Securities Transaction Tax. The Budget brings back LTCG while retaining STT, which many view as double taxation

"Meh" says market

Unlike last year, when the Sensex registered a 1.7% increase following the Union Budget, this year, the BSE Sensex dropped by 58 points, amounting to a 0.16% decline. Clearly the markets were not as enthused




Date	% Change
02-01-2018	-0.16
02-01-2017	1.7
02-29-16	0.5
02-28-15	0.2
07-10-14	0.1
02/17/2014*	0.1
02-28-13	0.1
03-16-12	0.1
02-28-11	0.1
02-26-10	0.1
07-06-09	0.1



LTCG sans indexation could have been avoided - the revenue expectation of ₹20,000 cr. could be a steep ask

Vishwavir Ahuja
MD & CEO RBL Bank



FIRST TAKE

NILESH SHAH
is MD, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co Ltd.

ake for Bharat, Make in India

udget expectations were clearly geared towards addressing rural constituency and the Budget did not disappoint in that context. While earlier governments' focus has traditionally been on the inputs (fertiliser subsidy, electricity subsidy etc.), it was refreshing to see the focus of this government on the output from the farms.

With an aim of increasing farm incomes, government announced policy of increasing minimum support price (MSP) to 1.5x of cost of produce for kharif crops. Other initiatives for this sector included higher spends for implementing eNAM in more mandis, special focus in food processing, agricultural exports (from current \$30billion to its potential of \$100 billion), fisheries and aqua culture and animal husbandry.

This, along with increased spending on rural roads and rural housing can definitely go a long way in tackling the rural distress and augurs well for rural consumption.

Given the lack of social security, the government's announcement of universal health insurance – providing 10 crore households with a cover of ₹5 lakh per household is a big game changer. Rolled on the lines of crop insurance, health insurance can be an elegant cost-effective solution to one of the biggest worries for any household. Besides this, the continued focus on jobs along with the earlier announced reduction in GST of most household consumption goods augurs well for consumption theme for Bharat.

With most taxation of goods and services now under the ambit of GST, the Budget focused on customs duties and raised duties across sectors – electronics, footwear, auto ancillaries, furniture, toys, food processing etc.

Corporate India has surplus capacities in many sectors, also in a few cases most of the value addition was happening outside India earlier. This move will signal long term players to move from a trading model to a manufacturing model. Taxation for SME (with turnover of less than ₹250crore) has also been reduced to 25%. The focus of bank lending on SMEs, as announced in the PSU recap package, will also help the smaller companies.

‘Hope no more misses’

While one may quibble about the miss in fiscal deficit target, one must see the context in which the tax revenues for the year were impacted by the implementation of momentous reform of GST. While there has been a miss, at least government has mentioned a glide path for fiscal consolidation and debt to GDP. One can only hope that there won't be any more misses.

An important takeaway is that this increased borrowing is not being wasted on populism and freebies but going towards more productive infrastructure creation (roads, railways, health insurance, affordable housing, farm processing etc.) and that is a big relief. The other big sentimental negative is the introduction of long term capital gains tax (LTCG) on equities, the only solace being that investments till January 31, 2018 are grandfathered. This definitely increases the cost of capital that market participants have to factor in, while evaluating fresh investments, but as the dust settles down and market participants impute this additional cost, journey of wealth creation through long term allocation to equities will continue.

BOOSTER SHOT

Gift City gets unified regulator

Transactions executed on exchanges here exempt from capital gains tax

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR
MUMBAI

The International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) at Gift City, Gujarat, has received a major boost with the Finance Minister proposing a unified regulator for the special finance zone along with tax benefits for non-residents and non-corporate entities operating there.

“International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) at Gift City, which has become operational, needs a coherent and integrated regulatory framework to fully develop and to compete with other offshore financial centres. The government will establish a

unified authority for regulating all financial services in IFSCs in India,” said Arun Jaitley, Finance Minister, while presenting Union Budget 2018-19.

This assumes significance as various government agencies and regulators, including the Reserve Bank of India and Securities and

Exchange Board of India (SEBI), have oversight on entities that operate in the zone.

Incidentally, entities operating at Gift City have, in the past, reiterated the need for a unified regulator for single window clearance and ease of doing business.

“The announcement of setting up of unified regulator for IFSC in India would help India achieve its full potential in the global financial markets. Globally, most of the financial centres host unified regulator in the same centre,” said Ajay Pandey, MD & Group CEO, GIFT City, adding the decision would help in

establishing GIFT IFSC as a global financial hub.

Mr. Jaitley also said transactions done on exchanges based in Gift City would be exempted from short term and long term capital gains tax.

“to promote trade in stock exchanges located in IFSC, I propose to exempt transfer of derivatives and certain securities by non-residents from capital gains tax. Further, non-corporate taxpayers operating in IFSC shall be charged Alternate Minimum Tax (AMT) at concessional rate of 9% at par with Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) applicable for corporates,” said Mr. Jaitley.

MF dividends now taxable at 10%

Move to usher in level-playing field

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

he government has proposed a 10% tax on dividends doled out by equity-oriented mutual funds as part of its overall levy of taxes on equity investments that also saw the finance minister re-introduce long term capital gains (LTCG) tax.

“I also propose to introduce a tax on distributed income by equity-oriented mutual fund at the rate of 10%. This will provide a level-playing field across growth-oriented funds and dividend distributing funds,” said Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, while presenting the Union Budget 2018-19.

While this is likely to act as a dampener for the mutual fund industry that has been seeing a steady flow of inflows, the move would also deter some amount of mis-


selling wherein investors put in money in a particular scheme only for getting regular dividends.

‘Will impact fund flow’

“This move may impact flows into funds where investors were primarily entering with the expectation of regular dividends,” said Kaushtubh Belapurkar, Director - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Adviser India.

In fact, dividend schemes were now slightly disadvantaged as opposed to growth schemes as LTCG below ₹1 lakh was exempt from tax, he said.

Distributors and fund houses marketed many balanced funds to investors by highlighting the regular tax-free dividend payout option, which was a big draw at a time when interest from bank deposits were taxable.




Daily Thanthi creates history!

The news is in the numbers!
Whopping 2.31 Crore* Readers!

The highest readership, not only amongst Tamil dailies, but also amongst all other regional language dailies in the country.

Thank you, readers and patrons!



*Source: IRS 2017 (TR)

Capital gains levy sinks stocks, Sensex slips into red zone

Index gyrated 750 points during day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

t was a volatile day for the equity markets. They opened strong ahead of the Budget but saw a knee-jerk fall during the afternoon session when the Finance Minister announced the introduction of long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax.

While the markets managed to recover most of the losses, it ended the day in the red as investor sentiment was dampened as LTCG was brought in even as no changes were made in the securities transaction tax rates. The 30-share Sensex, which was trading mostly in the green, fell 460 points around 12:40 p.m. when the announcement related to LTCG was made. It touched a low of 35,501.74 before some amount of buying support lifted the index.

The Sensex ended the day at 35,906.66, down 58.36 points or 0.16%. The volatility can be gauged from the fact that the index gyrated in a range of more than 750 points during the day. The broader Nifty of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) ended at 11,016.90, down 10.80 points or 0.10%.

Rajat Jain, chief investment officer, Principal Mu-

tual Fund, said that LTCG tax would have an impact on the market. Yet, he reckoned that the investors would still look at equity investment considering the historical return of the stock market. “While it (LTCG) will have a sentimental impact, the fact the gains till Wednesday are protected is a positive,” said Mr.Jain. Investors would adjust to the new tax regime and decide their asset allocation keeping in mind that equity investments had yielded good returns over the long-term, he added.

Interestingly, sector-specific announcements saw many mid- and small-cap stocks gaining ground even as the overall market breadth remained slightly negative. On the BSE, 1,463 stocks lost ground, as against 1,311 gainers.

Companies from the farm sector saw their shares gain ground after the Centre proposed raising institutional credit for agriculture to ₹ 11 lakh crore for 2018-19 apart from a higher minimum support price for crops. Bayer Corpscience, PI Industries, Monsanto India and Coromandel Agro Products & Oils ended the day in the green.

@Daily_English_Papers

Join@Daily_English_Papers

Breaking it down

What it is...

The Budget proposes to keep the minimum support price for all unannounced kharif crops at least at one and half times their production cost

How it works...

If the price of the agriculture produce in the market is less than the MSP, the government will purchase the produce at MSP or evolve a mechanism to do so

Why it matters...

Provision of higher minimum support price is a significant step towards achieving the government's goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022

Skewed patterns

Much of the institutional credit and loans to farmers in India is collected by larger landowners. The budget focusses on extending more benefits to small and marginal farmers

Lender type	Government/cooperative society/bank (%)		Employer/landlord/ money lender/relatives/trader/others (%)	
	Land holding in hectares			
	< 0.01	85	14.9	
	0.01 - 0.4	53	46.9	
	0.41 - 1	46.8	53.2	
	1.01 - 2	35.1	64.8	
	2.01 - 4	32.5	67.5	
	4.01 - 10	28.5	71.5	
10+	21	78.9		

Allocation to food processing and creation of food parks will boost agriculture, reduce wastages and create livelihoods
Sanjiv Puri
CEO, ITC Limited

FIRST TAKE

shot in the arm for farm growth

hrough this Union Budget, while addressing the key areas of agriculture, low-cost housing, infrastructure and health insurance, all requiring attention, it is commendable that the Union Finance Minister has also managed to keep the budgetary deficit at 3.3% of GDP for 2018-19.

NITI Aayog's efforts to ensure institutional capital to lessee cultivators is a welcome move towards creating efficient lease markets and increased arable land.

Small and marginal farmers will gain closer access to markets through moves such as upgradation of rural *haats* to GrAMS, expanding the eNAM network and setting up agri market infra fund.

The plan to increase the minimum support price (MSP) to 1.5 times the cost of produce for kharif crops is a positive move; however, the inflationary impact on the economy needs to be assessed. Liberalising export of agri commodities can increase openness of trade and boost farmer income.

Liquidity in rural markets

Encouraging Farmer Producer Organisations through 100% tax deduction, promoting cluster-based organic farming by Self Help Groups and the roll out of 'Operation Greens' is a necessary shot in the arm for increasing agricultural productivity.

The move on MSP and the increase in the agriculture credit to ₹11 lakh crore will hopefully address the issues of farm income and create liquidity in the rural markets. In the long run, it may be useful to have a price stabilisation fund for all major crops.

Another area of focus in the Union Budget is the MSME sector. Reduction of the corporate tax rates and increased credit support are expected to boost employment and profitability in the sector.

MSME sector will also benefit from the plan to introduce the Defence Production Policy 2018 to promote public private partnership in the defence sector, leading to increased private sector and MSME participation.

Health coverage

The launch of the government-funded National Health Protection Scheme for poor and vulnerable families, aimed at providing insurance cover of ₹5 lakh per family to 10 crore families, will ensure improved healthcare coverage.

Other favourable measures include the standard deduction for salaried persons and the various tax exemption measures for senior citizens and pensioners.

Substantial allocations have been made towards affordable housing (₹27,500 crore), PM Rural Road Plan (₹19,000 crore), National Education Mission (₹32,600 crore) and Swachh Bharat (₹17,800 crore).

The Budget will boost agriculture, rural development, healthcare and education, MSME and infrastructure sectors, while also providing relief to senior citizens and small corporates.

In all, I expect the economy will see both short and long term benefits due to the sustained focus on structural reforms, skill development and employment generation.

Proposals for agriculture sector include those on professional management of produce, apart from higher support prices

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

"Our emphasis is on generating higher incomes for farmers," Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said in the Budget speech on Thursday, as he announced that the government would "keep the MSP [minimum support price] for all hitherto unannounced crops of Kharif at least at one-and-a-half times their production cost".

"NITI Aayog, in consultation with Central and State governments, will put in place a foolproof mechanism so that farmers will get adequate price for their produce," he said.

Later, Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh

said in a statement, "With this decision, the Modi government has fulfilled the most important promise made in its manifesto (2014 general election). Our government has reiterated time and again that we don't want to merely declare MSP but also want to ensure that farmers receive the benefit of MSP".

The budgetary allocation of the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry for 2018-19 has been kept at ₹58,080 crore against ₹51,576 crore for 2017-18.

Price volatility

Mr. Jaitley proposed launching "Operation Greens" to address price volatility of

perishable commodities such as potatoes, tomatoes and onions, at an outlay of ₹500 crore.

"Operation Greens shall promote farmer producers organisations, agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management in the sector," he said, announcing a 100% deduction in respect of profits to farmer producer companies, having a turnover up to ₹100 crore, for a period of five years from the financial year 2018-19, in order to encourage professionalism in post-harvest value addition in agriculture.

The government also proposed raising institutional credit for the agriculture sector to ₹11 lakh crore for 2018-

19 from ₹10 lakh crore in 2017-18. To boost organic farming, Mr. Jaitley said women self-help groups (SHGs) would be encouraged to take up organic agriculture in clusters under the National Rural Livelihood Programme. Also, a sum of ₹200 crore had been allocated to support organised cultivation of highly specialised medicinal and aromatic plants and aid small and cottage industries that manufacture perfumes, essential oils and other associated products.

Mr. Jaitley proposed an upgrade of the 22,000 rural *haats* into gramin agricul-

ture markets, pointing out that more than 86% of farmers were small and marginal who were not always in a position to transact directly at the APMCs and other wholesale markets.

"The government would also strengthen e-NAM – the e-trading platform for the National Agriculture Market and would expand coverage of e-NAM to 585 APMCs. Out of that, 470 APMCs have already been connected to the e-NAM network and the rest will be connected by March 2018. Also, an agri-infrastructure fund with a corpus of ₹2,000 crore will be set up

for developing and upgrading agricultural marketing infrastructure in the 22,000 grameen agricultural markets and 585 APMCs," he said.

More for processing

The government announced doubling of allocation for the Food Processing Ministry from ₹715 crore in 2017-18 to ₹1,400 crore in 2018-19.

"With the increased allocation for the sector, the government will promote establishment of specialised agro-processing financial institutions in this sector and to set up state-of-the-art testing facilities in all the 42 mega food parks," the Minister added.

Renewed focus

Budgetary support has risen for agriculture and allied activities after a dip in rural wage rates and reduction in area sown

ON A DOWNTREND, AGAIN

The annual growth rate of agriculture in terms of gross value added has seen a drop in 2017-18 after seeing brief recovery in the previous period

Agriculture GVA at constant prices (y-o-y change %)

Year	GVA Change (%)
2013-14	5.57
14-15	-0.50
15-16	2.75
16-17	2.13
2017-18	2.13

LESS ACTIVITY ON SOWING FRONT

The sowing of crops during both the rabi and kharif seasons dropped in 2017-18 compared to the previous year. Wheat sowing reduced from 311 to 298 lakh hectares during this rabi season

Production figures (Y-o-Y change %)

y-o-y change % in sowing of kharif crops

Year	Change (%)
2013	4.93
2014	4.4
2015	-0.07
2016	-0.55
2017	-0.07
2018	-0.55

y-o-y change % in sowing of rabi crops

Year	Change (%)
2013	4.93
2014	4.4
2015	-0.07
2016	-0.55
2017	-0.07
2018	-0.55

LOWER WAGE RISES

The increase in rural wage rates have started dropping again in the recent months. During Nov. 2017, the wage rate increased only by 4.21% compared to Nov. 2016

Avg. wage rate for rural occupations (y-o-y change %)

Period	Change (%)
Jan. '15	2.93
July '15	4.21
Jan. '16	4.21
July '16	4.21
Jan. '17	4.21
July '17	4.21

AGRICULTURE BOOST

In order to offset the recent dips and alleviate rural distress the govt has increased the expenditure budget by 12.81% compared to last year

Gross budgetary support for agriculture

Year	Support (₹ crore)
2015-16	23,694
2016-17	50,184
2017-18 (RE)	56,589
2018-19 (BE)	63,836

Swaminathan calls for clarity on MSP hike

Paddy, millet growers may not benefit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

griculture expert and former Rajya Sabha member M.S. Swaminathan welcomed Thursday's Union Budget announcement to keep the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all unannounced kharif crops at least at one and a half times of the production cost. However, he said the government should clarify whether the proposed hike was the same as the formula for MSP recommended in 2006 by the National Commission on Farmers, which he headed.

The M.S. Swaminathan Committee report had recommended a minimum support price of 50% profits above the cost of production classified as 'C2' by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Prof. Swaminathan said that since the Finance Minister had announced the proposed hike for only unannounced crops, most important crops such as paddy or millets are not up for any hike.

In a statement, the agricultural scientist suggested that if price in the market drops below the MSP, the government should purchase either at MSP or work to provide the MSP through an alternate mechanism. If income is less than the support price, the government has said that it will make efforts to buy the surplus produced by the farmers.

Given the significant impact of climate on farm pro-

Budget does not deal with the management of climate change in relation to farming

M.S. SWAMINATHAN
Agricultural scientist

duce, Prof. Swaminathan said while the Budget provides for greater use of clean and renewable energy sources, it does not deal with the management of climate change in relation to farming. "It is important to set up climate risk management R&D centres – at least one at every block level. Such centres should be supported by trained Climate Risk Managers, one woman and one man from each Panchayat."

He welcomed the increased allocation for building warehouses and upgrading 22,000 rural *haats* (shandys) into Grameen Agricultural markets. The decision to integrate fisheries and animal husbandry with Kisan Credit Cards and restructure the National Bamboo Mission to enhance the cultivation and consumption of bamboo products was also welcomed.

Disappointing, says Amarinder

'Budget failed to address farmers' distress and there was no mention of a loan waiver'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

unjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh on Thursday described the Union Budget 2018-19 as 'disappointing' for the State as it has failed to announce any measures to address the farmers' distress.

"Not only did the Budget not contain any announcement on farm loan waiver, it also failed to implement the Swaminathan Committee report in toto, making it clear

that the Central government did not recognise the distress of the State's farmers," said Capt. Amarinder.

Reacting cautiously to the proposed hike in MSP to fix it at 1.5 times the expenditure, Capt. Amarinder said while the details would need to be examined, on the face of it, the Centre should have implemented the Swaminathan Committee report in full.

If the Centre is serious about the issue, it should implement the report of Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand on the issue, he added.

"The Centre had also failed to help Punjab in its crop diversification efforts through setting up of the National Horticulture University. No major outlay for research and development in the agriculture sector had been an-

nounced, even though the Economic Survey had recognised climate change and its impact on agriculture as a major issue," he said.

Khattar hails it

However, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has hailed the Budget, terming it to be reflective of the pro-poor and pro-farmer policies of the NDA government. He said it would give a decisive push to economic growth and job creation.

LOOKING UP

The grass is greener for bamboo

A restructured National Bamboo Mission will raise the incomes of farmers and processors

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

What's in a name? A lot, if we are talking about bamboo. Bamboo is essentially a type of grass, but its classification as a tree for 90 years prevented the northeast, which grows 67% of India's bamboo, from exploiting it commercially unlike China, the only country with richer bamboo genetic resources.

Now Budget 2018 has ignited farm hope for the grass which once fuelled insurgency in the northeastern States. The allocation of ₹1,290 crore for a restructured National Bamboo Mission (NBM) has

raised hopes for a range of bamboo-based industries – from food processing to construction.

"Bamboo is a wonder, multi-utility grass that more than 300 ethnic groups in the northeast have traditionally been using in every stage of life, from birth to death, besides it being a delicacy. Bamboo's commercial journey began when it was struck off the list of trees by amending the Indian Forest Act last year," said Chandra Mohan Patowary, Assam's Industry and Commerce Minister.

If the 'tree' tag prevented tribal people from using bamboos in forest land, the

northeast has 25% of India's forests – the lack of policy support never allowed commercial use of non-forest bamboo, experts said.

"The Budget provision is one of the best initiatives to promote holistic development of bamboo. But the restructured NBM needs to be more focussed on value-chain management

and value-addition of bamboo at the community level which will bring more income to the bamboo farmers and bamboo processors," Kamesh Salam, a former member of the NBM, told *The Hindu*.

Called the green gold, the bamboo has been in focus for the wrong reasons in the northeast. A rat famine triggered by flowering of this grass in 1966 led to the creation of the Mizo National Front that metamorphosed into a political party. The flowering of bamboo every 50-55 years leads to dramatic increase in the population of rats that

destroy crops triggering famine, also called *Mautam*.

There have also been instances of bamboo cartels shedding blood while competing for limited commercial opportunities. But things for the grass began looking up last year when the Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur governments signed an agreement for supplying bamboo to the Numaligarh Refinery's upcoming bio-refinery. "Such initiatives will offer a permanent source of revenue generation to bamboo growers," Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu said.

Of harvest and after

Tax break for firms promoting post-harvest activities

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

o give a boost to the Prime Minister Krishi Sampada Yojana, a scheme for agro-marine processing and development of agro-processing clusters under the Food Processing Industries Ministry, the Union government announced the "Operation Greens" Mission.

In the Union Budget for 2018-19, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced tax incentives for promoting post-harvest activities in agriculture.

"My government proposes to launch an 'Operation Greens,' on the lines of 'Operation Flood'. Operation Greens shall promote farmer producers organisations

(FPOs), agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management. I propose to allocate ₹500 crore for this purpose," the Minister said.

"In order to encourage professionalism in post-harvest value addition in agriculture, I propose to allow 100% deduction to these companies registered as farmer producer companies and having an annual turnover up to ₹100 crore in respect of their profit derived from such activities for a period of five years from financial year 2018-19."


Mr. Jaitley noted that 100% deduction was allowed in respect of profit of

the cooperative societies which gave assistance to its members engaged in primary agricultural activities. Over the past few years, a number of farmer producer companies had been set up along the lines of cooperative societies, which provide similar assistance to their members.

"The food processing sector is growing at an average rate of 8% per annum. The allocation of Ministry of Food Processing Industries is being doubled from ₹715 crore in the revised estimate of 2017-18 to ₹1,400 crore in the budget estimate for 2018-19," he said.

@Daily_English_Papers

Join@Daily_English_Papers



BUDGET 2018

Breaking it down

What it is...

In order to provide education to tribal children in "their own environment", the Budget proposes to set up Ekalavya Model Residential Schools

How it works...

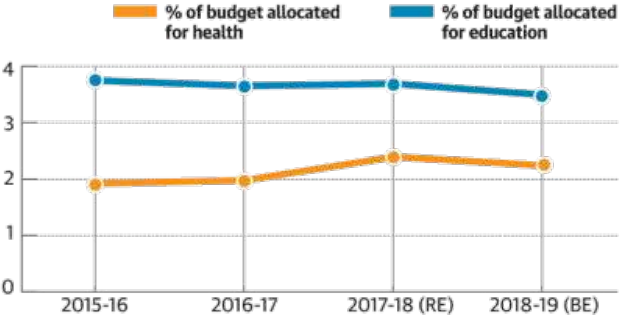
By 2022, every block with more than 50% scheduled tribe population and at least 20,000 tribal people will have an Ekalavya Model Residential School

Why it matters...

Navodaya Vidyalayas with special facilities for preserving local culture and providing training in sports and skill development seek to equip tribal children


Social re-focus

The proportion of budgetary allocations in the social sector — health and education spends — in FY2019 decreased marginally. This follows a significant increase in the previous year



We welcome emphasis on upgrading methods and training teachers which will enable better learning outcomes

Kunal Bahl
Co-founder & CEO, Snapdeal



FIRST TAKE

T.C.A. RAMANUJAM
Former Chief Commissioner, Income Tax

Good but could have been better

At this point our focus should be on removing supply bottlenecks than on creating much more additional demand

— Raghuram Rajan at Davos

About 49% of the labour force is engaged in agriculture. Bumper harvest: low prices, drought: zero income. Suicides by farmers all across the country. Can the Central government shirk responsibility, saying agriculture is a State subject?

A welcome announcement is the MSP for Rabi crops at least at 1.5 times the cost involved, to be extended to other crops. A foolproof mechanism will be put in place to ensure adequate price for farm produce.

Marketing is one area which has escaped the attention of the FM. The marketing mechanism announced in the Budget speech falls short of the recommendations of the Ashok Dalwai Committee on doubling farmer incomes. It had suggested that the One India Market will be benefited if agricultural marketing is brought under the Concurrent List. Marketing should operate on a pan-India level. The One nation, One market concept should be extended to agricultural produce across States.

A foolproof mechanism will be put in place to ensure adequate price for farm produce

National Highways hope to construct 9,000 km in 2017-18 and Bharat Mala 35,000 km at a cost of ₹5,35,000 crore. There is much to be learnt from the idea of the Golden Quadrilateral successfully promoted

and implemented by Atal Behari Vajpayee.

The Budget speech forgets the fact that the bulk of the farm labour consists of farmers who don't own the land. Will there be some measure to help the farmer own the land he cultivates?

Education

Admittedly, quality of education is a cause for concern. According to ASER, 50% of the children in the age group 14 to 18, despite having been schooled, cannot read, write or do basic arithmetic. The government spends on education 5% of the GDP. It is not enough to train teachers. Education should be imparted to the earlier generation of illiterate parents. Digital kiosks in schools to educate the parent is an absolute necessity. The FM talks of Institutes of Eminence, instead of vocational institutes in every town and every district. We need to build up a large army of carpenters, tool smiths, masons, etc.

Healthcare

The National Health Protection scheme to cover 50 crore beneficiaries up to ₹5,00,000 per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation is laudable. The government is moving towards the goal of Universal Health Coverage, setting up 24 medical colleges by upgrading existing district hospitals. Why is there no talk of primary health centres in rural areas? The government spends 3% of the GDP on healthcare. There is no mention of schools for nurses. The private sector contributes 51% of the bed capacity and handles 45 million admissions every year. This can generate 75 lakh direct jobs within five years.

(With T.C.A. Sangeetha)

Health insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh a family a year, and setting up of health and wellness centres

N. RAVI KUMAR

HYDERABAD

Lakhs of families borrow or sell assets to receive inpatient treatment and the government is concerned about the consequent "impoverishment of poor and vulnerable families", Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said while announcing the National Health Protection Scheme that will cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families, or around 50 crore people.

Adequate funds will be provided for the scheme, set to be the world's largest government-funded healthcare programme, he said. A provisional allocation of ₹2,000 crore has been made for the

scheme in the Budget. Coverage of up to ₹5 lakh a family a year will be provided for secondary and tertiary-care hospitalisation.

Under the existing Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), poor families get an annual coverage of ₹30,000. Several State governments have implemented or supplemented health protection schemes that provide varying coverage.

"My government has now decided to take health protection to a more aspirational level," Mr. Jaitley said, announcing the proposed National Health Protection Scheme and committing ₹1,200 crore for health and wellness centres. Comprehensive health care, including for non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services, and free essential drugs and diagnostic services are to be provided at the centres.

These two, he explained, were part of the 'Ayushman Bharat' programme to address health holistically, in primary, secondary and tertiary care system, covering both prevention and health promotion.

Industry hails initiative

Top executives in the health-care and insurance industry hailed the initiatives.

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance MD and CEO Tapan Singhel said people in coun-

tries that provided higher health insurance cover had a higher life expectancy. "The same will happen in India now with this announcement. As an insurer, we will deliver exceptionally good services and facilities for people who are covered and make it a great success."

He also welcomed the increase in the tax exemption limit for health insurance under Section 80 D for senior citizens and introduction of micro-insurance services for Jan Dhan account holders.

Apollo Hospitals vice-chairman Preetha Reddy described the Scheme as "noth-

ing short of path-breaking," while Dr. Reddy's Laboratories chairman Satish Reddy said Ayushman Bharat was a "game changer".

CEO and co-founder of BankBazaar, Adhil Shetty, said the scheme would

create tremendous awareness of health insurance, the same way Jan Dhan did for bank accounts. "On life insurance, the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Yojana, including ₹2 lakh life cover, is being pushed across a larger base which is a great sign. ₹2 lakh critical cover is also being extended to a larger base," he said.

The emphasis on bringing

more under health cover is a pointer to the focus of policy-makers on ensuring adequate protection against health hazards, said Bhargav Dasgupta, MD and CEO of ICICI Lombard General Insurance.

Mr. Jaitley said the government would work towards covering all poor households, including SC/ST households, under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.

It would expand the coverage under Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana by bringing all 60 crore basic accounts within its fold.

(With Oommen A. Ninan in Thiruvananthapuram)

Social spending

The lack of increase in outlays for rural development, health, education and social welfare, as compared to previous years, is in contrast to the high emphasis in the Budget speech

Category	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (RE)	2018-19 (BE)
MNREGA	2.09	2.44	2.48	2.25
RURAL DEVELOPMENT	5.04	5.77	6.11	5.65
HIGHER EDUCATION	1.42	1.47	1.57	1.43
SCHOOL EDUCATION	2.33	2.18	2.12	2.05
SOCIAL WELFARE	1.77	1.61	1.74	1.81

DATA: VIGNESH RADHAKRISHNAN, VARUN B. KRISHNAN, SRINIVASAN RAMANI. **GRAPHICS:** A. GANESHAN, KARTHIK S.T., J. A. PREMKUMAR, B SRINIVASAN, L BALAMURUGAN, SUBYENDU GANGULY, KANNAN SUNDAR, DEEPAK H., KARTHIKEYAN, J. SATHISH, PRATAP R. **ILLUSTRATIONS:** SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

Govt. to pay new recruits' PF money

Subsidy will continue for three years; PF deduction for women down to 8%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

The Centre will contribute 12% of the wages of new employees under the Employees Provident Fund Organisation across sectors for the next three years.

Making the announcement while presenting the 2018-19 Union Budget, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said creating job opportunities and facilitating employment generation had been at

the core of the National Democratic Alliance government. The Centre also made amendments to the provisions of Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act to reduce women employees' contribution to 8% for first three years of their employment against the existing 12% or 10% with no change in employers' contribution.

This has been done to incentivise employment of more women in the formal sector and enable higher take-home wages, he said.

The other pro-employment measures in the Budget include introduction of National Apprenticeship Scheme with stipend support and sharing the cost of basic training by the Centre to impart training

to 50 lakh youth by 2020, introducing a system of fixed term employment for apparel and footwear sector and increasing paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks along with provision of crèches. "An independent study conducted recently has shown that 70 lakh formal jobs will be created this year," the Minister said.

The facility of fixed term employment will be extended to all sectors.

More tribal areas to get Ekalavya schools

They will have facilities for preserving culture: Jaitley

VIKAS PATHAK

NEW DELHI

The name of legendary tribal archer Ekalavya will soon become synonymous with residential schools in each block of the country where tribal people constitute a majority of the population. This was announced by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in his Budget speech.

The Ekalavya Residential School Scheme isn't new. It has been around for many years now. However, the government has signalled in Budget 2018 that it wants to expand the scope.


"The government is committed to providing the best quality education to the tribal children in their own environment. To realise this

The Ekalavya schools will be on a par with the Navodaya Vidyalayas. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT


mission, it has been decided that by the year 2022, every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an Ekalavya Model Residential School," Mr. Jaitley said. "Ekalavya schools will be on a par with Navodaya Vidyalayas and will have spe-

cial facilities for preserving local art and culture, besides providing training in sports and skill development."

Mr. Jaitley also hinted at another change. "We propose to treat education holistically without segmentation from pre-nursery to Class 12," he said.



“Velcro Dhoties”



Please visit our nearest showroom

KAROLBAGH	: 2574 5454
DWARAKA	: 2665 2481
KHAN MARKET	: 2461 1861
CANNAUGHT PLACE	: 2336 4283
LUCKNOW	: 2288 8892

Shop Online at www.cooptex.gov.in www.facebook.com/cooptex www.instagram.com/cooptexindia

Avail 20% DISCOUNT

@Daily_English_Papers

Join@Daily_English_Papers

At Bharat: the big budget scheme

Breaking it down

What it is...

The Budget proposes to extend the reduced 25% corporate tax to companies who have reported turnover up to ₹250 crore in the financial year 2016-17

How it works...

This is in line with the government's promise to reduce corporate tax in a phased manner. The government expects a dip of ₹7,000 cr. in revenue during 2018-19

Why it matters...

This will benefit the entire class of micro, small and medium enterprises, which account for almost 99% of companies filing their tax returns

Make in India blues

Manufacturing firms registered a fall in growth rates in the last two financial years. This has largely been due to a lack of adequate investment, reflected in sluggish gross fixed capital formation in the economy

Among others, integration of the TReDS platform with the GST Network is a significant policy change

Rajnish Kumar
Chairman, SBI

FIRST TAKE

V.S. PARTHASARATHY
is Mahindra Group CFO



he green thumb Budget

"A right cause never fails," said Mahatma Gandhi. And, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley quoted this in his February 2016 Budget speech. As experts study this year's Budget, rural wealth creation is the single most stand out item. The rural economy's crying need to be integrated into overall economy, its importance in poverty alleviation and wealth creation are well understood by the government. I'm greatly enthused by the holding up of the case for rural economy in this Budget.

I would dare say that embracing doubling farm income at this point of economic history is an imperative, not an option. With the right mixture of growth in rural and urban, India can rightfully seize its moment under the sun. This Budget has made the right pitch for investment, growth and job creation in Bharat. The Economic Survey, bright and bold as it is, came out with disturbing facts about the current state of rural economy, of farm distress where subsidies are counter-productive and a worrying future where climate change will reduce 25% of the farm income. Add to this that 54% of Indian work force depends on

Concerted effort to produce, process and prosper is the new 'mool mantra.' Farm to global fork is a step closer

Enrolling them for a rural resurgence by leveraging technology is a great leapfrogging possibility. With technology, the time for "strategic cultivation" is here – precision farming, nano technology, augmenting irrigation, farm to fork supply chain management. How do we ever rise up to this massive task? It is by letting a thousand flowers bloom in the rural areas. Rural start-ups and entrepreneurship skills should spring up everywhere and business models based on agro and other industries should be around a new paradigm of ease of doing business in Bharat and creation of an interconnected agri market. Cold storages and processing industries will prevent agri produce losses. If exports are an imperative for India, rural economy can play a stellar role. Supply chain management and processing industries can create export goods leveraging inter-state and international linkages, contributing to State and national GDP. Augmenting other income streams – dairy, poultry, horticulture, fishery etc. will add to farm wealth. Concerted effort to produce, process and prosper is the new 'mool mantra.' Farm to global fork is a step closer.

If we look at rural allocation, the infrastructure allocation itself counts more than ₹14 lakhs crore. This, along with various other boosters like doubling allocation for food processing, emphasis on "Operation Green" in line with "Operation Flood," simplification of MSP calculation, special allocation for ₹2,000 crore for agri market development, expanding scope of Kisan Credit Card and integration of eNAM with the local haat will help in realising farmers' income. The Budget has signalled the government's intent and the stakeholders have to join hands to nurture the seedlings planted by the Union Government.

Expenditure on programme doubled to ₹3,073 crore from ₹1,425.63 crore in 2017-18; industry welcomes move

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

inance Minister Arun Jaitley, on Thursday, proposed to double the expenditure on the government's flagship Digital India programme to ₹3,073 crore for the next fiscal against ₹1,425.63 crore in 2017-18, a move that has largely been welcomed by the industry.

"Global economy is transforming into a digital economy thanks to development of cutting-edge technologies in digital space – machine learning, artificial intelligence, Internet of things, 3D printing and the like," Mr. Jaitley said.

Terming it as a technology-oriented budget, IAMAI

said, "Budget 2018 gives recognition to the emerging sectors like Edutech, Agri-tech and Healthtech in India".

Under Digital India, a maximum of ₹864.22 crore will be spent on promotion of electronics manufacturing, followed by ₹425 crore on delivering e-governance services, ₹400 crore on the government's digital literacy programme and ₹300 crore on development on manpower.

"The Government also proposes to set up 5 lakh wi-fi hotspots which will provide broadband access to 5 crore rural citizens," the finance minister said.

He said that the NITI

Aayog would initiate a national programme to direct efforts in the area of artificial intelligence, including research and development of its applications.

Rishi Mohan Bhatnagar, Chairperson of The Institution of Engineering and Technology – IoT panel for India, said, "I was expecting a reduction in tax on hardware from 18% to 5% and a move towards rationalising spectrum licence fees for promoting IoT adoption in the country. High capital investment requirement could slow down the IoT adoption momentum in our country and decelerate its evolution as an enabler for various Digital India programmes."

Additionally, the Department of Science & Technology will launch a Mission on Cyber Physical Systems to support establishment of centres of excellence that will invest in research, training and skilling in robotics, artificial intelligence, digital manufacturing, big data analysis, quantum communication and internet of things.

"Combining cyber and physical systems has great potential to transform not only innovation ecosystem but also our economies and the way we live," the Minister said.

The Budget proposed an allocation of around ₹14,500

crore to strengthen telecom infrastructure projects, including BharatNet, during the upcoming fiscal.

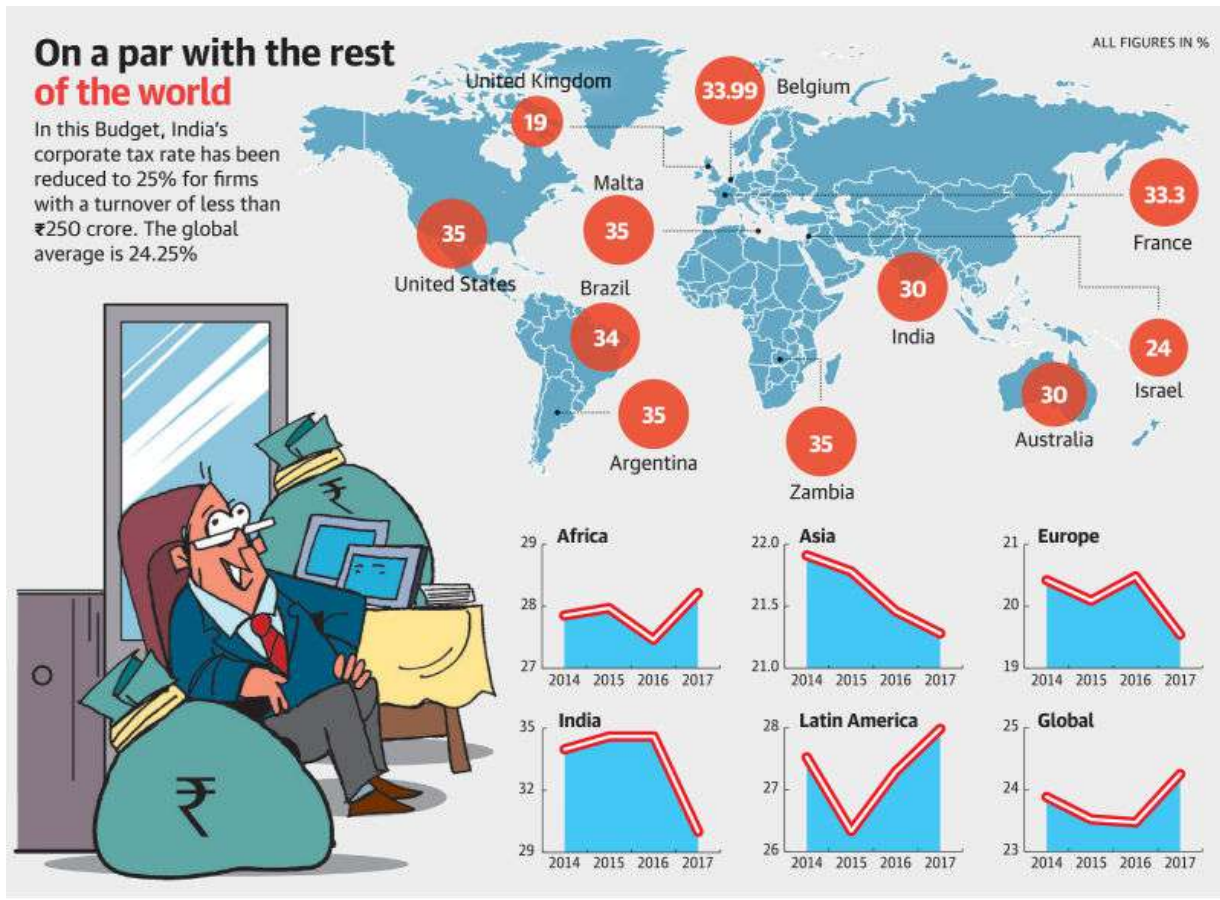
Of this, ₹4,500 has been allocated for building a dedicated optical fibre-based communications network for defence forces in lieu of airwaves vacated for civilian use.

"To harness the benefit of emerging new technologies, particularly the 'Fifth Generation' (5G) technologies and its adoption, the Department of Telecom will support establishment of an indigenous 5G Test Bed at IIT, Chennai," Mr. Jaitley said. An amount of nearly

₹135 crore has been provisioned for the same.

The government expects revenue of ₹48,661.42 crore from the telecom sector, which is reeling under financial stress. Telecom operators pay licence fees and spectrum usage charges to the government.

The telecom industry is "disappointed" that none of its key asks found mention in the Budget. "We had sought a reduction in levies and taxes, and an urgent intervention is critical for resuscitating the sector, which is currently experiencing its worst financial health and hyper competition," Rajan Mathews, Director General at COAI, said.



SEBI mulls bond market framework

To help companies meet a fourth of their financing requirements

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

he Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will soon consider creating a regulatory framework, making it compulsory for corporates to tap the bond market for a part of their capital requirement.

Presenting the Union Budget 2018-19, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said while the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had already moved in the direction, the capital market regulator would also take up this issue for listed compa-

nies. "Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to nudge corporates to access bond market. SEBI will also consider mandating, beginning with large corporates, to meet about one-fourth of their financing needs from the bond market," said Mr. Jaitley.

Further, he said all the regulators concerned would take necessary steps to permit bonds with 'A' rating to be made eligible for investment. "Corporate bonds rated 'BBB' or equivalent are

investment grade. In India, most regulators permit bonds with the 'AA' rating only as eligible for investment. It is now time to move from 'AA' to 'A' grade ratings. The government and concerned regulators will take necessary action," said the Finance Minister.

"Most of the big corporations are already moving towards the bond markets to take advantage of the lower cost. Making it mandatory to raise one fourth of the total

borrowing through bonds can push the supply side of the corporate bond market," said Jimmy Patel, MD & CEO, Quantum AMC.

Corporate bond market revival has been the subject of many panels and study papers but failed to register a growth trajectory similar to that of the equity market or interest rate derivatives that is showing signs of activity.

SEBI already has a committee which advises it on issues related to the development of the corporate bond market.

TEXTILES

Allocation for tech upgrades to raise productivity

Funds for rebate of state levies, higher by about ₹600 crore, aimed at boosting exports

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA
COIMBATORE

he Union Budget on Thursday proposed an allocation of ₹7,148 crore for the textile sector, which includes the entire textile value chain and segments such as silk and jute.

The major allocation is for the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund scheme, a programme that looks at improving productivity through technology upgradation with higher fixed capital investment. The scheme has got ₹2,300 crore as against ₹1,956 crore for the year 2017-2018. The other substantial allocation is

towards Rebate of State Levies (ROSL), which is to boost exports. The scheme has received an allocation of ₹2,163.85 crore compared with ₹1,555 crore earmarked for the sector in the previous budget. The outlay for schemes for powerloom units is ₹112.15 crore, covering programmes under the Power Tex India and Comprehensive Powerloom Cluster Development Programme.

Environment norms
The Integrated Processing Development Scheme, which will support the textile processing sector coming with environment



norms, will get ₹3.8 crore and nearly 4,000 units are expected to benefit. Similarly, the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks, which has 47 ongoing projects, will get ₹30 crore to create infrastructure facilities for textile units.

The budget has proposed ₹396 crore for handloom

clusters under the National Handloom Development Programme. The plan is to supply 5,355 lakh kg of yarn to the weavers, set up 31 new block-level clusters, covering 2,000 weavers for loom upgradation.

Schemes such as integrated skill development (₹200 crore) and segments such as sericulture (₹510.61 crore) are the others to get budgetary support. About 50 new projects will be initiated and 35 current projects completed in the silk sector for better capacity building. In an effort to encourage use of geo textiles in road construction and reservoir

projects, ₹15 crore has been allocated. This will help lay 40 km road using geo textiles, take up 20 slope stabilisation projects and 25 water reservoir projects.

Technology missions
There are also plans for technology missions on cotton, knitwear and technical textiles with budgetary allocations.

A comprehensive programme to develop all segments of the textile industry in the north eastern region is also in the works.

Significantly, the customs duty on silk fabric has been increased from 10% to 20%.

Start-ups feel let down

'A missed opportunity to address crucial near-term issues'

PEERZADA ABRAR
BENGALURU

The Finance Minister has announced that the government would set up a separate policy for hybrid instruments. These, he said, were suitable for attracting foreign investment in niche areas, especially for the start-ups and venture capital firms.

Also, the Budget proposed to align the definition of eligible business for a start-up with the modified definition notified by DIPP. It also proposed to extend the incorporation date for a start-up for availing the benefit under Section 80-IAC of the Act to March 31, 2021 from March 31, 2019, and rationalise the condition of turnover for availing the be-

nefit. The start-up and venture capital community, however, has given a lukewarm response to the Budget. Though the Budget was well-intentioned, they were of the view that it fell short of expectations.

"On the start-up and investor fronts, this Budget is a missed opportunity to address the important near-term issues," said software product think-tank iSPIRT, which worked closely with thousands of product firms. It had hoped to see the resolution for 'angel tax' and 'stay-in-India check-list' issues. It said slapping a 'long-term capital gains tax' on the previously untaxed sale of listed equities will ad-

versely affect the 'List-in-India' initiative.

Additionally, the compliance overhang of listing will no longer be tempered by the promise of tax-free gains. It said promised tax regime must incentivise and protect foundational angel and domestic investors as opposed to fleeting capital.

"India's complexity and diversity call for a much more responsive and action-oriented policy-making approach," said iSPIRT.

Many start-up founders and venture capitalists applauded the Centre for announcing efforts to enhance research in new age technologies.

Breaking it down

What it is...

The Bharatmala Pariyojana is intended as a network of roads to connect remote and far-flung areas of the country, including the borders and coastal areas

How it works...

To ensure seamless connectivity, the Budget proposes developing about 35,000 km under Phase-I of the scheme at an estimated cost of ₹5,35,000 crore

Why it matters...

Economic development depends on transportation networks and their maintenance. Roads add to GDP and jobs given their significant multiplier effect

New milestones

Road-building, a good indicator of infrastructure building, has steadily increased in the last four years. The number of kilometres of roads built in 2016-2017 is headed towards a peak in the last four years

Doubling the allocation on Digital India sends a strong signal about the government's resolve
Keshav R. Murugesh
CEO, WNS Global Services

FIRST TAKE

S.N. SUBRAHMANYAM
CEO & MD, Larsen & Toubro

well-balanced, good budget

Budget 2018-19 is a pragmatic effort, which takes care of fiscal rectitude while keeping in focus the need to connect the missing links in infrastructure and farm sector development.

A fiscal deficit target of 3.3% and a real GDP growth target of around 7%-7.5% both look realistic while fund flows to the important sectors like infrastructure remain supportive.

Given the increased buoyancy in direct tax collections and the increase in tax base, an imposition of long-term capital gains tax and an increased cess, coupled with the GST regime settling down, chances of fiscal slippage in 2018-19 are low. Much would also depend on how the expenditure side pans out in a pre-election year.

The downside risks are mainly external, including a possible rise in crude oil prices and the attendant rise in current account deficit and pressure on exchange rates. An abrupt rise in interest rates in developed countries is also a risk which would lead to capital outflow from bond and stock markets.

The Budget has reiterated infrastructure investment as the *sine qua non* for sustained growth, with a requirement of ₹50 lakh crore that has to come partly from the government but importantly through 'crowding in' of investments from the private sector. Government infrastructure investments are set to grow by 21% to around ₹6 lakh crore. A lot of stress has been given to urbanisation through adoption of smart cities and smart infrastructure and construction of large infrastructure projects in transportation like 'Bharatmala', aviation and ports.

More importantly, the attendant structural reforms through the adoption of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and a clear emphasis on recapitalisation of the banking system and strategic disinvestment targets reflect the long term commitment of the government. Such incentives will release risk capital, lower risk averseness of the financial sector and lead to the upturn of the private capital expenditure cycle.

A higher tax buoyancy and a bigger tax base will raise the stagnant tax to GDP ratio and provide for more fiscal space for targeted expenditure. Such efforts are expected to 'crowd in' the much required private investment and rejuvenate the capital expenditure upturn which is so important for the success all such initiatives.

The emphasis on digitisation as the underlining tool for proper delivery and governance would go a long way to aid productivity and transparency under the emerging business/social environment.

The decision to reduce corporate income tax for all firms with turnover below ₹250 crore to 25% is a welcome move.

Given the underlying local and global economic trends, coupled with the evolving political/electoral realities, it is a good budget. The Indian economy has been resilient to two major structural changes adopted during the last two fiscal years. Issues relating to bank recapitalisation and bad loans resolution is under way. I strongly feel that we are on the cusp of the next growth cycle and India would continue to be the fastest growing global economy/market.

SMART MOVE

A shot in the arm for Urban Rejuvenation Mission

₹12,169 crore allocation is likely to multiply investment prospects in the real estate sector

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA
COIMBATORE

In a boost to infrastructure development, the total outlay for the Urban Rejuvenation Mission, which includes projects under AMRUT and Smart Cities Mission, has been increased to ₹12,169 crore.

The Smart Cities Mission, which received ₹4,000 crore budgetary allocation in 2017-2018 and ₹4,412 crore the previous year, will get ₹6,169 crore in 2018-2019, including ₹169 crore towards capacity building for urban development.

This will be used to develop 100 smart cities.

Under the AMRUT

for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), the allocation proposed is ₹6,000 crore. This will be towards the Urban Rejuvenation Mission of 500 cities. The budgetary allocation for AMRUT schemes in 2017-2018 was close to ₹5,000 crore.

99 cities selected
According to a press release, 99 cities have been selected under the Smart Cities Mission with an outlay of ₹2.04 lakh crore, projects worth ₹2350 crore have been completed, and work for ₹20,852 crore is under progress.

Under the AMRUT

At ₹2.95 lakh crore, allocation sees only a marginal 7.81% rise, which may be just enough to meet existing requirements

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The allocation for defence in this year's Budget saw a modest hike of 7.81%, excluding pensions, raising questions if any major new acquisitions can be made this year.

According to a Defence Ministry statement, the budget allocation stood at ₹2.95 lakh crore. However, defence pensions have for the first time crossed the ₹1,00,000 crore mark and even surpassed the quantum of capital allocation.

Compared to 2017-18, this year's allocation represents a 7.81% increase over the Budget estimate of ₹2.74 lakh crore and 5.91% increase over the revised estimate of

₹2.79 lakh crore.

"A number of initiatives have been taken to develop and nurture intrinsic defence production capability to make the nation self-reliant for meeting our defence needs. Ensuring adequate budgetary support will be our priority," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said in his Budget speech.

Of the overall allocation, ₹1,95,947 crore was the revenue component while ₹99,563 crore was the capital allocation. The allocation for defence pensions was ₹1,08,853 crore, which is 14.26% higher than the revised estimates of last year at ₹95,000 crore, far outweighing the growth in defence

outlay. This year's defence allocation accounts for 12.1% of the total Central government expenditure.

Committed liabilities
In the capital allocation, a majority of it would go for committed liabilities, which is payments for contracts that have already been signed. This would leave very little for fresh procurements.

For instance, for the Navy, the allocation in Budget estimate for 2017-18 under capital head was ₹18,603.71 crore, which includes committed liabilities for capital acquisition amounting to ₹14,004.76 crore. This meant that there was just about

₹4,599 crore.

For the Air Force, the allocation in Budget estimate 2017-18 under Capital Budget was ₹33,570.17 crore, which includes committed liabilities for capital acquisition amounting to ₹26,899.90 crore and an amount of ₹4000 crore has been kept for new schemes.

Some of the major deals for which payments are being made are the 36 Rafale fighters, six C-130J transport aircraft, AH-64 attack helicopters, CH-47 Chinook heavy lift helicopters and M-777 Ultra-Light Howitzers, among others.

In addition, the Navy and

Air Force have lined up multi-billion defence deals for procurement of submarines, single-engine fighter aircraft and hundreds of helicopters among others to be procured under the strategic partnership policy. The procurement process is at the initial stages.

Mixed response
The industry gave a mixed response to the Budget. While welcoming the establishment of defence industrial corridors, there was scepticism on how new procurements can be made with very little funds left.

Kabir Bogra, partner at Khaitan & Co. called the bud-

get a mixed bag for the defence sector. "The increase of spending by about 8% to ₹2,95,511 crore implies that the focus continues to remain in addressing existing revenue expenditure requirements rather than allocation of capital for acquisition of new equipment. The modernisation process seems to have taken a back seat this year," he said.

In a departure from practice, Mr. Jaitley did not announce the budgetary allocation for defence in his speech. Instead, he only made a brief reference to the government's emphasis on defence modernisations and push for domestic manufacturing.

Smaller pie for defence

Allocation has dropped from 12% of the budget to 11.6% this year. Outlay is middling compared to other BRICS nations

DEFENCE EXPENDITURE (IN ₹ CRORES)

Year	Proportion allocated for defence (%)	Defence Budget (₹ Crores)
2015-16	12.6%	2.25
2016-17	12.8%	2.51
2017-18 (RE)	12%	2.67
2018-19 (BE)	11.6%	2.82

ENERGY EXPENDITURE (IN ₹ '000 CRORES)

Year	Proportion allocated for energy (%)	Energy Budget (₹ '000 Crores)
2015-16	1.18%	21.12
2016-17	1.57%	30.96
2017-18	1.88%	41.68
2018-19	1.68%	41.10

MILITARY EXPENDITURE AS % OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING

According to SIPRI, Pakistan's proportion of defence spending far exceeds that of India

Country	2015-16 (%)	2017-18 (%)
Pakistan	16.1%	18.1%
India	9.3%	8.9%
China	6.5%	6.2%

Russia's proportion of defence spending has gone up in recent years, while that of the U.S. has gone down

Country	2015-16 (%)	2017-18 (%)
Russia	11.4%	15.5%
USA	10.8%	9.3%
Brazil	3.7%	3.1%

Source: SIPRI database

Big push for infrastructure growth

Nearly ₹6 lakh crore allocated; 35,000 km of road construction planned

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Budget 2018-19 has allocated ₹5.97 lakh crore for infrastructure, a sector the government considers the growth driver of the economy.

Estimating over ₹50 lakh crore investment to increase the GDP growth and connect the nation with a network of roads, airports, railways, ports and inland waterways, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday announced an increase of budgetary al-

location on infrastructure for 2018-19 to ₹5.97 lakh crore against the estimated expenditure of ₹4.94 lakh crore in 2017-18.

The Finance Ministry would leverage the India Infrastructure Finance Corporation Limited (IIFCL) to help finance major infrastructure projects, he added.

Exuding confidence regarding completing the National Highways exceeding 9,000 kilometres during

2017-18, he said under the 'Bharatmala Pariyojana' for seamless connectivity of interior and backward areas and borders of the country, about 35,000 km of road would be constructed in Phase-I at an estimated cost of ₹5.35 lakh crore.

To raise equity from the market for its mature road assets, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) would consider organising its road assets into

Special Purpose Vehicles and use innovative monetising structures like Toll, Operate and Transfer and Infrastructure Investment Funds, Mr. Jaitley said. The government said it had given permission to bodies like the NHAI and the Metro to raise bonds from the market.

Chanda Kochhar, MD and CEO, ICICI Bank, said "the government has maintained its focus on creating infrastructure with an aim to catapult India on to a higher and sustainable growth path."

Defence corridors
Mr. Jaitley said measures would be taken to develop two defence industrial production corridors in the country. "The Government will also bring out an industry-friendly Defence Production Policy 2018 to promote domestic production by public sector, private sector and Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises," he stated.

18.6% hike in space outlay

At ₹10,783 crore, department gets its best share in 5 years

MADHUMATHI D.S.
BENGALURU

At ₹10,783 crore, the Department of Space (DoS) gets its biggest outlay to date and also the best yearly increase in five years – of 18.6%.

It is also well above the ₹9,093 crore allocated last February.

Also, for fiscal 2017-18 which ends on March 31, the DoS drew about ₹62 crore more than the last year's outlay, revised estimates for the year show.

Back in 2013-14, DoS probably received its best ever annual increase of nearly 40% over the previous year.

Focussed on satellites
This segment includes money towards centres involved in satellites, launch vehicles, propulsion, launch, post-launch satellite tracking; besides operational projects and those under development.

Satellites are the backbone of national and social activities such as communication, television and radio broadcasts, telephony, Inter-

net connectivity, location and disaster relief support, military security, resource mapping, planning, decision making and to set up big infrastructure projects. Around 100 departments have begun to intensively tap satellite-based information.

Under Space Sciences, ₹230 crore has been earmarked together for the proposed second Mars Orbiter Mission, a Venus mission plan, a space docking experiment, small satellites, X-ray polarimeter satellite called XpoSat, climate programme and sponsored research. Space applications, which include payload development and remote sensing, received ₹1,746.25 up from ₹1,586.46.

@Daily_English_Papers

defence buys may have to wait

Join@Daily_English_Papers

Breaking it down

What it is...

Need for heavy coal movement in India and growing international trade led to the proposals for freight corridors along the eastern and western routes

How it works...

While the western corridor will traverse 1,504 km, connecting JNPT with Dadri in U.P., the eastern route will connect Dankuni in West Bengal with Dadri

Why it matters...

Dedicated freight corridors will decongest the roads and promote a shift to the more efficient rail network and will help cut greenhouse gas emissions

Chugging along

Passenger earnings have slowly increased over the years to keep pace with the number of kilometres travelled overall by passengers in the country. The Railway budget has emphasised higher earnings through fare prices over time

I don't miss presenting the Railway Budget... I want to ensure passenger safety... the bullet train is coming
Piyush Goyal
Union Minister for Railways

FIRST TAKE

SUBODH KUMAR JAIN
Former member, Railway Board

Project delivery still on the slow track

The Railways is an important service for the economy and for the everyday life of the people, as it holds more than 90% of long distance passenger travel. This is the reason that even after the merger of the Rail Budget, the public is interested in its impact on Railways.

Although this is the fourth Budget of this Government, the announcements sound repetitive, such as early implementation of dedicated freight corridors (DFC), station redevelopment, increasing of speed on existing lines known as 'semi high speed' and bullet train.

However, the reality on the ground has not kept pace with the Budget as DFC is now targeted for opening in 2019. Not a single section has been operationalised. Similarly, physical progress has been made only in two stations. Shri Suresh Prabhu had announced in his Budget that all contracts in the Railways would be engineering, procurement, construction (EPC) but till date not a single EPC contract has been made. Despite all the right steps like delegation of powers to general managers and no resource constraint, project delivery continues to be unsatisfactory and needs to be fixed urgently.

Huge borrowings may result in an irreversible downward slide

Emphasis on capacity building, i.e. doubling of the existing single line sections, gauge conversion of all narrow lines, aggressive electrification, and investment in modern signalling and rolling stock will certainly yield long-term dividends but in the absence of internal generation almost the entire capital is being arranged through extra budgetary resources.

In the absence of a robust revenue stream, the huge borrowings may result in an irreversible downward slide very quickly.

It is claimed that during the last three financial years, 2014-15 to 2016-17, an average 3,000 km of broad gauge lines and 2,000 km of electrification has been completed annually.

In addition, 35 PFT/goods sheds have been commissioned. Manufacture of coaches, locomotives and wagons has also improved. This should have translated into an additional capacity of at least 150 GMT but the ground reality is the opposite. From 2000 to 2014, the CAGR of freight traffic was 6.16%, while during the last three financial years it was less than 2%. The trend in 2017-18 is also no better than 5%, way below the growth which was taking place even without modernisation and capacity expansion.

Surprisingly, during the same period transport output growth was about 6.5% and power generation growth was 5.5%, indicating that the Railways was losing out to other modes.

The capital budget outlay provided is ₹1,48,528 crore which is good news for the industry, although about ₹93,000 crore is going to be out of borrowed funds in the absence of internal generation.

The most praiseworthy part of the Budget is the mention of suburban sections of Mumbai and Bengaluru.

The Railways have been disowning the suburban traffic for quite long, resulting in sub-optimum transport solutions getting priority. Overall, the Railways portion of the Budget indicates the right direction. However, focus must be on the growth of non-fare revenue, delivery of projects and programmes, and further reduction in manpower.

Highest-ever allocation will fast-forward Railway plans

₹1,48,528 crore earmarked to boost track conversion and capacity addition

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

In the highest-ever allocation, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday announced a capital expenditure of ₹1,48,528 crore for the Railway Ministry for the year 2018-19.

A large part of these funds will be utilised for capacity addition. The government has decided to double 18,000 km of tracks and to work on third and fourth lines on several sectors. "Five thousand kilometres of gauge conversion would augment capacity and transform almost the entire network into broad gauge," he said. Mr. Jaitley also said 4,000 km of the railway network would be commissioned for electrification during 2017-18.

The Budget also made provision for acquisition of 12,000 wagons, 5,160 coaches and approximately 700 locomotives during 2018-19. The Finance Minister said work on the eastern and western dedicated freight corridors was in full swing.

Responding to the allocations, Vishwas Udgirkar, partner, Deloitte India, said: "Measures announced on

On track Rail infrastructure and route electrification have received a big boost

GROSS BUDGETARY SUPPORT (₹CR.)

Year	Support (₹CR.)
2015-16	3.25 lakh
2016-17	3.60 lakh
2017-18 (RE)	3.98 lakh
2018-19 (RE)	4.46 lakh

% OF ELECTRIFIED ROUTE

Year	% Electrified
2010-11	30.43
2011-12	31.42
2012-13	31.96
2013-14	32.83
2014-15	33.64
2015-16	35.38
2016-17 (TP)	37.69

Key Initiatives:

- 600 | Major railway stations to be re-developed
- 5,000 km | To be converted to broad gauge
- 4,000 km | Electrification of network planned
- 700 | Locomotives to be procured in 2018-19
- 4,267 | Unmanned railway level crossings to be eliminated

Bonanza for Bengaluru

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday allocated ₹17,000 crore to add 160 km of suburban network in Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka which goes to polls later this year.

This comes a day after the State cabinet approved the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Projects' first phase to be implemented in the next three years. The project is a joint venture between the State government and the Railways, and the former would bear 20% of ₹349 crore of the total cost.

"A suburban network of approximately 160 km at an estimated cost of ₹17,000 crore is being planned to cater to the growth of Bengaluru," Mr. Jaitley said.

Sudhir Rao, managing director, India, Bombardier Transportation, said going by the Budget announcement, the Railway Ministry has a vision to create a world-class, environmentally sustainable, energy efficient transportation system in India.

"Our rail vehicles from commuter trains to metros, monorails to locomotives, high-speed trains to light rail vehicles provide sustainable mobility across cities globally moving millions daily. We are pleased with the intent for procurement of rolling stock by the Railways," Mr. Rao said.

"Modernising the Railways riding on technology offers the appropriate ecosystem for the development of smart cities. This will help attract more business and increased employment opportunities for the local populace," said Keshav R. Muruges, group CEO, WNS Global Services.

'Mumbai local' gets a ticket to expand

Projects worth ₹51,000 crore approved

AJEET MAHALE
MUMBAI

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday approved projects worth ₹51,000 crore for the Mumbai suburban railway network, to which an additional 150 km will be added.

An amount of ₹11,000 crore has been sanctioned for the doubling of lines under Phase III of the Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) – or MUTP 3 – and approval for projects worth ₹40,000 crore has been granted. "The Mumbai transport system, which is the lifeline of the city, is being expanded and augmented to add 90 km of double line tracks at a cost of ₹11,000 crore," the Finance Minister said in his speech.

The new tracks include an additional double track between Virar and Dahanu as

well as a new line connecting Karjat with Panvel.

The Finance Minister referred to MUTP 3A in his speech and said: "Hundred and fifty kilometres of additional suburban network is being planned in Mumbai at the cost of ₹40,000 crore, including elevated corridors in some sections."

Other proposals in the Budget include creating a new suburban corridor between Panvel and Virar, extending the Harbour Line till Borivali, and constructing new lines on existing corridors such as line 5 and 6 between Borivali and Virar, line 3 and 4 between Kalyan and Badlapur, and a fourth line between Kalyan and Asangaon.

On the bullet train project, the Minister said, "An institute is coming up in Vadodra to train the manpower required for the project."

WAY TO GO

Coming, engine-less train sets from ICF

Equipped with driver cabins at both ends, entry and exits from stations to be faster

VIVEK NARAYANAN
CHENNAI

The image of a train slowly chugging into a station is the first thing that comes to the mind when one thinks of the Indian Railways. This image will soon be a thing of the past, thanks to the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) that is in the process of manufacturing new, engine-less train sets – a rake without a separate locomotive – known as Train 18. These will speed up entry and exit from stations and reduce travel time.

In the Union Budget, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced that

The new trains will only have chair cars.

modern train sets with state-of-the-art amenities and features are being designed at the ICF in Perambur, and the first such set will be commissioned this fiscal.

ICF sources said that in the new train sets, the locomotive would be replaced with driver cabins at either end of the train. They will travel at 160 km per hour, which is known as semi-high speed in railway parlance. "These are made in India, self-propelled, best-in-class train sets for the Railways. A conventional train with an engine will

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Jajpath, Bhubaneswar - 751022
website : www.opctl.co.in CIN : U40102OR2004SGC007553

e-TENDER NOTICE NO. CPC-26/2017-18
For and on behalf of ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. Sr. G.M. (CPC) invites tenders from registered manufacturers in two part bidding system for supply of Heat Ware Fittings & Accessories for Conductor. The interested bidders would be required to enroll themselves on the tender Portal www.tenderwizard.com/OPCTL. Complete set of bidding documents are available at www.tenderwizard.com/OPCTL from 01.02.2018 (13:30 Hrs.) up to 13.02.2018 (13:30 Hrs.). Interested manufacturers may visit OPCTL's official website <http://www.opctl.co.in> and www.tenderwizard.com/OPCTL for detail specification. N.B: All subsequent amendments/compensum to the tender shall be hosted in the OPCTL's official website <http://www.opctl.co.in> and www.tenderwizard.com/OPCTL only.
CR Advt. No. 41/2017-18 Senior General Manager (CPC)
Please connect us : opctl.odisha opctl.odisha energyodisha

ICAR - CENTRAL TOBACCO RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)
RAJAHMUNDRY-533 105, A.P., INDIA
WEBSITE : www.ctril.org.in, ISO 9001 : 2008 CERTIFIED INSTITUTE
PIN Phn: 0883 244897-74 :: Director (O) : 0883-344895 :: SAG (O) - 0883 2448341
FAX : 0883-2410555 & 2448341 :: E-mail: ctril-ap@nic.in

No.F.13/EQUIPMENT/2017-18/ADM III (P) Dated 31ST JAN 2018
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
The Director, ICAR-Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry, AP inviting Online Bids (e-Tender) from the eligible Parties / Firms / Agencies for supply & installation of (1) PLATE READER FOR SINGLE NUCLEOTIDE POLYMORPHISM (SNP) AND (2) ROOT MAGE ANALYSER at ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry. Bidders are requested to submit ONLINE BIDS through Central Public Procurement Portal i.e. <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocureapp>. The last date for online submission of bids is 21.02.2018 upto 5.00 PM. Tender documents along with terms and conditions are available at our website www.ctril.org.in & www.eprocure.gov.in.
Sd/-
SR.ADMN.OFFICER
ICAR-CTRI, RAJAHMUNDRY

HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED
AERONAUTICS DIVISION, HYDERABAD - 500 042
Phone: 040 23873251 ext. 4451 / 4453 Fax: 040-23878167 Website: www.hal-india.com

Online e- tenders in prescribed form is invited for the following work :-

Sl.No.	Description of Work	Tender Reference No. HAL/HDI	Estimated Value in Rs.
1	Civil works for Widening of east side road used for RLJU antenna testing facility.	CE/CT/17-18/39	63.87 Lakhs
2	Service contract for Engagement of Drivers and carpenters on contract basis in HAL, Hyderabad	MT/MT/17-18/04	227.90 Lakhs

For full details, interested contractors / agencies are requested to visit Website www.hal-india.com under the "link" → Tenders → Hyderabad Division → Tender → Tender Notice No. (as above) under free view. All future corrigenda shall be updated only on the above website and no separate press advertisement will be issued.
CM(Civil)/E-MOD, Hyderabad Division

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U8511KA19705GC001919
ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)(Through e-procurement portal only)
No. TDBT1/M3/CHS/1676 Date: 25.01.2018
KPCL invites bids through GoK e-procurement platform www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from the qualified bidders for the following brief scope of work: "Installation of Paddle feeder and connected equipment below the Track Hopper at BTPS Unit-1 - Design, Engineering, Manufacturing, Quality Surveillance, Testing at manufacture's works, Packing, Supply, Delivery F.O.R BTPS site, Erection, Testing, Commissioning and conducting performance guarantee tests including painting and handing over of Track Hopper coal unloading system and accessories with all civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, control & instrumentation works, including insurance towards transit risk/storage/ intra-site transportation for erection". Those who have not registered in e-procurement portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in may do so in order to participate in the bid. The brief bid notification containing the pre-qualifying criteria for the bidders, EMD, Calendar of bid activities and other details can be accessed from e-procurement portal. Further details can be had from office of the Chief Engineer (Thermal Designs), KPC Ltd., #22/23, Sudarshan Complex, II Floor, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru - 560 009. Ph: 080-22206223, Fax No: 080-22386517. e-mail: kpclctd@gmail.com / semctd@gmail.com Website: www.karnatakapower.com

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, BANGALORE
26/C, Electronic City, Hosur Road, Bengaluru - 560 100
No.: MIIT/45/18 Date: 01.02.2018

International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Bangalore, on behalf of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), invites sealed tenders from eligible bidders for supply, installation, testing & commissioning and on-site support for setting up of **Communications Laboratory and Control Systems Laboratory** for Myanmar Institute of Information and Technology (MIIT) at Mandalay in Myanmar on turnkey basis.

Name of Work	EMD	Last date for bid submission	Date of opening of bids
Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning and on-site support for Communications Laboratory	Rs.4.4 Lakhs	28 th Feb 2018 at 1300 hours	28 th Feb 2018 at 1400 hours
Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning and on-site support for setting up of Control Systems Laboratory	Rs.12.2 Lakhs	28 th Feb 2018 at 1300 hours	28 th Feb 2018 at 1500 hours

For details of eligibility, specifications, tender terms and conditions, future amendments, if any, please visit website www.mea.gov.in or www.eprocure.gov.in or www.iiitb.ac.in
Sd/- Registrar, IIIT-B

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Ballari Thermal Power Station)
CIN: U8511KA19705GC001919
CORRIGENDUM (Through e-procurement only)
No: CD/BTPS/NARAYANPUR/WS Date: 30.01.2018
Tender was invited for the work of "Manufacture and Supplying to site, laying, jointing, testing and commissioning of MS Pipe line of 1630 mm outer diameter 12 mm thick with Epoxy coating as per specifications and construction of appurtenant works for the water supply pipe line from Narayanpur Reservoir in Krishna basin to Kushtagi. (approx. length 68 Kms) including Electro-Mechanical works" against Tender Notice No: KPCL/2017-18/WS/WORK_INDENT6527 dtd. 05.12.2017, published in this daily on 06.12.2017. Now Corrigendum has been issued through e-procurement portal of GoK for the following: Last date for submission ob bid: **12.02.2018 upto 16.00 hrs.** Date & time of opening of Technical bid (Cover-I) : **14.02.2018 at 16.30 hrs.** Date & time of opening of Financial bid (Cover-II) : **16.02.2018 at 16.00 hrs.** The other terms and conditions of the NIT remains same. Further details can be had from the office of the Chief Engineer (Designs), KPCL, 22/23, 1st Floor, Sudarsha Complex, Seshadri Road, Bangalore - 560 009. Tel: 080-22202915 Fax: 080-22355360. e-mail: ccedbng@gmail.com Website: <http://www.karnatakapower.com>

idco ODISHA
ODISHA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
NEW OPPORTUNITIES IDCO Towers, Jajpath, Bhubaneswar - 751022

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C) IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR, Tender Call Notice No. H.O. / P&C / EST-E-458 / 04 / 2018 / 2250 Dated:- 31.01.2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement

Name of the Work : Construction of road from Biju Pattanaik Marg to Emami Cement at Kalanga Nagar in the District of Jajpur.

1. Estimated cost : Rs. 267.56 lakhs (approx)
2. Period of completion : 06 (six) calendar months
3.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-Line for Bidding
		From To
1	2	3 4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Idco Tower, Bhubaneswar	Bid Id No. PC-EST-E-67/2017-18	05.02.2018 at 10:00 Hrs. 20.02.2018 up to 17:00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.tendersorissa.gov.in and Comogendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in and IDCO Website www.idco.in
Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C) IDCO, Bhubaneswar

Join@Daily_English_Papers



Promise and delivery

Arun Jaitley's Budget will be judged by whether it can bridge the gap

If the Union Budget is construed as an annual tug-of-war between populism and fiscal prudence, arguably it is the latter that prevailed in the past four budgets tabled by the NDA. However, populism seems to have gained an upper hand in Arun Jaitley's latest effort. Despite exceptional buoyancy in direct tax revenues (18.7% growth in FY18) and record disinvestment proceeds (₹1 lakh crore), shortfalls in GST mop-ups and dividend receipts have forced the Finance Minister to ease off on fiscal consolidation as mandated by the FRBM Act. The Budget has reported a fiscal deficit of 3.5% (of GDP) for FY18 and pegged it at a high 3.3% for next year. The Economic Survey prepared the ground for a deviation, yet the actual numbers surprised the markets. Armed with a war chest of ₹24.4 lakh crore in budgeted receipts for FY19, Mr. Jaitley has homed in unerringly on the root causes of distress – unremunerative farm incomes, unemployment, lack of social security nets and the squeeze on the middle-class taxpayer.

With this in mind, Mr. Jaitley has announced a laundry list of ameliorative measures. While his intent is clearly welfarist, resource constraints have forced him to rely significantly on extra-budgetary resources and external agencies to give life to many proposals. If they fail to materialise, it can lead to a gap between promise and delivery. Consider agriculture. After asserting that minimum support prices (MSPs) should cover all crops and assure farmers 1.5 times their production cost, food subsidy allocations for FY19 have been upped by a relatively modest ₹29,041 crore. A 'fool-proof' mechanism has been mooted to avoid market prices falling below MSPs, but it is left to the Niti Aayog to work out the modalities. Setting up farmers' markets is similarly a great idea to free small farmers from the tyranny of Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs), but the project gets a mere ₹2,000-crore allocation.

The ambitious rural package in this Budget brings in free gas connections to three crore new households, free electricity connections to four crore homes, two crore new toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission, higher micro-irrigation coverage, and so on. But of the massive outlay of ₹14.34 lakh crore required to bankroll these grandiose plans, as much as ₹11.98 lakh crore is expected to be met from extra-budgetary resources. A similar template has been used in social sector schemes. The National Health Protection Scheme, to provide a ₹5 lakh health cover to 10 crore households, is a much-needed social security intervention to benefit poor households that rely overwhelmingly on private health care. But there is little clarity on modalities. The entire clutch of proposals on improving learning outcomes, providing universal health coverage and alleviating the lot of minorities and girl children is expected to be funded through a mere ₹16,000-crore increase in allocations to ₹1.38 lakh crore. Infrastructure appears to be one of the few sectors where the funding problem has been addressed, with PSUs bankrolling a significant proportion of the ₹5.97-lakh crore outlay for FY19.

While being liberal in its announcements for rural India, the Budget has been frugal in its giveaways to the middle class and the corporate sector. Expectations of an increase in the basic exemption limit on income tax have been belied; instead, a standard deduction of ₹40,000 is back for salaried taxpayers. While it is only fair that the salaried pay income tax on their net income (after expenses) as the self-employed do, this deduction (which also replaces transport and medical reimbursements) is too small to establish real parity. The clamour for an across-the-board cut in the basic corporate tax rate from 30 to 25% has also been ignored, with the cut limited to mid-size companies (up to ₹250-crore turnover). Though this will benefit the overwhelming majority of corporate tax filers, how this impacts the competitive edge of India's largest companies in the global context will be debated. Especially so, since the U.S. recently slashed its corporate tax rate to 21% and European nations average 20%. For the salariat and the corporate sector, the increase in education cess will offset some of the gains from these tax cuts. Senior citizens have benefited, particularly from the tax relief on interest from bank deposits and post office schemes, which has been hiked from ₹10,000 to ₹50,000 a year. These interest payouts are also exempt from the vexatious TDS provisions. This relief renders senior citizens far less vulnerable to steadily dwindling interest rates on bank deposits and small savings schemes; it also helps them to continue relying on fixed-income instruments to cover living expenses. This relief may reverse the unhealthy trend of risk-averse savers shifting wholesale from bank deposits to market-linked options such as equity mutual funds, in search of higher returns.

The imposition of 10% long-term capital gains tax on profits from shares and equity mutual funds could dampen market sentiment in the near term, but is unlikely to have any structural impact on domestic equity flows. Equities are favoured by the relatively affluent savers and alternative financial instruments such as bonds and fixed deposits invite far higher tax incidence. Moreover, the bulk of new allocations flowing into Indian equities in the last two years have come from retail investors, most of them saving for the long term. It is unlikely that they will beat a hasty retreat from shares or mutual funds just because of a modest levy. Overall, the Budget has a sense of direction that is difficult to find fault with. If some of the proposals seem half-hearted or are not taken to their logical end, it may be the result of revenue constraints. It is to be hoped that as the revenue base improves and GST collections stabilise, future budgets can put the finishing touches on the welfare proposals.

Goodbye to fiscal consolidation

With the rural constituency in focus, the government's spending road map may cross expected limits



T.T. RAM MOHAN

The Narendra Modi government has taken pride in having restored the economy to the path of fiscal consolidation. The fiscal deficit target for 2017-18 had been set at 3.2% of GDP for 2017-18 and 3.0% for 2018-19. The Budget for 2018-19 puts paid to these objectives for now. The fiscal deficit for 2017-18 has ended up at 3.5%. For 2018-19, the government has set a target of 3.3%. The fiscal deficit target of 3% of GDP has now been pushed to 2020-21.

Missed targets

Revenue receipts in 2017-18 have grown faster than anticipated (although non-tax revenues have fallen short of target). We can compare the revised estimate for 2017-18 with the actual for 2016-17 and the Budget estimate for 2017-18 with the revised estimate for 2016-17. Tax revenues were higher than anticipated (15% compared to 13%).

Capital receipts are expected to exceed the budgetary estimate thanks to record disinvestment revenues of ₹100,000 crore (₹27,500 crore higher than targeted). On the revenue side, the government could not have expected better.

It is the expenditure side that has given way. Revenue expenditure grew by 15% compared to the Budget estimate of 6%. An increase in establishment expenditure accounts for more than 40% of the increase in revenue expenditure. Capital expenditure ended up lower than in the previous year by 3.9%. In the Budget for 2017-18,

capital expenditure had been set 10.7% higher. This was flagged as one of the great accomplishments of last year's Budget and it was expected to boost GDP growth.

The fiscal slippage in 2017-18, therefore, cannot be ascribed to a lower than projected nominal growth (around 9.5% compared to 11.5%). Expenditure has got out of control or was under-estimated in last year's Budget. Moreover, revenue, not capital, expenditure is the villain. The revenue deficit for 2017-18 is 2.6% of GDP, way above the Budget estimate of 1.9% of GDP.

Projections for new fiscal

What do we make of the projections for 2018-19? The Budget projects an increase in tax revenues of 16.6% compared to 15.3% in the previous year, which appears achievable. Total expenditure is expected to grow by 10.1% compared to 12.3%, which could turn out to be an under estimate. Capital expenditure has been set 9.9% higher which is modest given that there had been a decline in the previous year.

Growth in public investment is tepid. There are no big tax giveaways either in the Budget. Clearly, fiscal policy is not being used to stimulate growth. With inflation running at 5%, the scope for mo-

netary easing too is limited. The government is leaving it to market forces to drive growth in the coming year.

Will it work? In 2017-18, the Economic Survey argues, growth was dampened by a combination of factors: high real interest rates, disruption caused by demonetisation and the goods and services tax (GST), the twin balance sheet problem and high oil prices. The disruption caused by demonetisation and GST is out of the way. The Survey hopes that the bankruptcy process put in place will resolve the twin balance sheet problem – we have to see how the process plays out. As inflation edges up, we could see monetary tightening. With oil prices projected to be \$10-\$12 higher in the coming year, growth could be adversely impacted by 0.3%.

One source of anxiety is overheated asset markets the world over. In India too, equity valuations have been extremely stretched. The Budget has introduced a tax of 10% on long-term capital gains while retaining the securities transactions tax. The reaction of the market thus far has been muted.

However, should asset prices fall elsewhere, we could see the same happening here. Consumption and investment would fall as a result. The monetary authorities

The question of credibility

The entire fiscal adjustment path has been reworked in this Budget



M. GOVINDA RAO

There were considerable expectations from the Budget. Given that this is the last full-year Budget by this government and the first one after the revenue uncertainties arising from implementation of the goods and services tax (GST) reform, there were apprehensions about the slippages as well. Indeed, there are electoral budget cycles in every democratic polity and considering the dissatisfaction shown by rural electorate in the recent Gujarat elections, there were definite apprehensions about fiscal laxity.

Focus areas

The Finance Minister devoted a considerable part of his speech to elaborate the focus areas in the Budget. These include strengthening the agriculture and rural economy, provision of good healthcare for the poor, taking care of the senior citizens, creation of infrastructure, and working with the States to improve the quality of education. A careful analysis of the allocations to various sectors, however, does not show any significant departures from the past ex-

cept in the case of allocation to food storage and warehousing which is set to increase by 19.4% due to the assurance of minimum support prices at 150% of the cost. The total expenditure in 2018-19 is estimated to increase by about 10.2% over the revised estimate of the previous year, and the increase in capital expenditure is estimated at 9.9%. In fact, direct spending on social and economic services by the Union government is estimated to increase by only 7.8% and 6.7%, and increase in the grants to States for Central schemes is estimated at 13.8%. Thus, the objectives of improving the wellness of the people, removing the farm distress, improving the quality of education and augmenting infrastructure are supposed to be achieved by using extra-budgetary funds.

The most important worry, however, is on the fiscal front. A close examination shows that there have been substantial slippages in all the deficit numbers. In fact, even for the year 2016-17, the fiscal deficit works out to 3.7% as against 3.5% shown in the Budget if the GDP estimate put out by the Central Statistics Office on January 31 is taken. The revised estimate of revenue deficit in 2017-18 works out to 2.6% as against the Budget estimate of 1.9%, and the slippage in primary deficit is from 0.14% to 0.38%. Much of this has happened not because of revenue shortfall or



increase in capital expenditure. In fact, despite shortfall in indirect taxes, the tax revenue net of devolution to the States shows an increase of 3.4% over the Budget estimates. Similarly, even as non-tax revenues realisation was less due to the inability to generate spectrum fees and lower dividends from the banks, total revenues available with the government was higher than the Budget estimate by over 3%. The slippage happened even as capital expenditure was compressed by 12% due to a sharp increase in revenue expenditure. The capital expenditure in 2017-18, as also that budgeted for 2018-19, at 1.6% of GDP is perhaps the lowest since 2014-15. Thus, the slippage was mainly on account of higher than budgeted spending in revenue expenditure, particularly the grants given to the States for Central schemes, which was higher by 25.8%.

The Economic Survey had emphasised the need for ensuring macroeconomic stability in view

of both domestic and global developments and in this the importance of fiscal discipline is stated to be paramount. However, this Budget has reworked the entire adjustment path. The estimated fiscal deficit for 2018-19 is 3.3%, and in addition, the government will issue bank recapitalisation bonds amounting to ₹80,000 crore. Proper accounting demands that this should be a part of the fiscal deficit as when the shares of public enterprises are sold, these are taken as non-debt capital receipts, but when the bonds are purchased by the government, they are not counted for the deficit! The Finance Minister states that he accepts the key recommendations of the FRBM Committee to bring down the debt-to-GDP ratio to 40% and the fiscal deficit target will be the key operational parameter, but does not adhere to the 3% target for the next year and 2.5% for the subsequent years set by the Committee! The medium-term fiscal plan states that the 3% target will be reached only in 2020-21. Fiscal management in the country suffers from credibility crisis.

On the taxes front, the most important issue is the proposal to levy the long-term capital gains tax above ₹1 lakh at the rate of 10% for instruments bought after January 31, 2018. Those who advocated the levy were clear that the tax policy should not affect the investors'

of groundnut, for example, in Saurashtra appears to have cost the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) dearly in the Gujarat elections. The proposal on MSPs is thus shrewdly timed, though it would mean higher prices for consumers.

The Budget proposes a health insurance scheme that will cover 10 crore poor families with an insurance cover of ₹5 lakh each. Since such a cover would mean an annual premium of at least ₹10,000, it is doubtful that it is backed by actual outlays in the Budget. Moreover, basic health care must be provided through government hospitals and not through insurance that pays for care at private hospitals. This is a disturbing sign that we are going down the American route to health care instead of, say, the Canadian route.

The Budget also includes several measures for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). There is a target of ₹3 lakh crore for lending under the MUDRA scheme. The government will pay 12% towards the Employee Provident Fund for new employees in all sectors for the next three years. A lower corporate tax of 25%, hitherto applicable to enterprises with a turnover of ₹50 crore, is now applicable to companies with a turnover of up to ₹250 crore.

It is clear that a return to a high growth trajectory of 8% is unlikely before the 2019 election. The BJP seems to have reckoned it has the urban middle class with it regardless. It is the rural constituency that needs focus. The Budget for 2018-19 has expenditure items planned accordingly while ensuring that the fiscal deficit stays within reasonable bounds.

T.T. Ram Mohan is a professor at IIM Ahmedabad. E-mail: trr@iima.ac.in

choice of financial instruments, which meant that the treatment should be uniform for equity and debt-based instruments. This would require uniform application of the tax to all instruments and the abolition of securities and commodities transaction taxes. There is a case for the tax to be neutral between all forms of investments including immobile properties. In that sense, what has been attempted is a half-way house.

Too loaded

Furthermore, when the reform required that the tax policy should not be loaded with many objectives, the Budget goes on to use the instrument to promote post-harvest activities in agriculture, employment generation and incentivising micro, small and medium enterprises. On indirect taxes, increase in custom duties to facilitate "Make in India" is a retrograde measure. We have been advocating moving away from protectionism in global forums, but want to protect the domestic producers through higher import duties. This may make some producers happy, but will not increase the competitiveness.

M. Govinda Rao, who was a Member of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, is Emeritus Professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Many questions

This year's Budget is an anticlimax. Along with the usual assortment we have come to expect every year is the Finance Minister's claim that we are on course to reach a growth rate of 8%. This is actually 6% on the "old scale". The government does not seem to have used the bounty of low crude prices in the first three years and world trade being on the mend. We should actually be looking at a rate of 10-12% now. Several announcements only raise questions about their means of funding, thanks to the state of the economy these past months. It is time we realised that we should be done with hype and bluster.

M. BALAKRISHNAN,
Bengaluru

Rohingya crisis

The Rohingyas are at a

juncture where not taking timely action to save them might result in a mess of colossal magnitude. Such issues cannot be dealt with single-handedly. India and Bangladesh are facing great pressure handling the many thousands of refugees especially as they lack the necessary infrastructure to accommodate a growing number of refugees. In the Rohingya crisis, India faces a predicament: it cannot turn them away for they will walk into the jaws of death; if accommodated, they will live in abject poverty and squalor, the consequences of which do not bode well for India. Myanmar must be told in no uncertain terms that it has to take responsibility for its own citizens ("India can't be refugee capital", February 1).

VRINDA RAJIVANSHI,
New Delhi

Still blue

The decision to continue issuing "blue passports" for all Indians after withdrawing the plan on "orange passports" for Indian migrant labourers is welcome. When no less than the Prime Minister talks about 'one tax, one nation, one election', it was strange how the idea of having passports in two categories was even thought of ("Facing criticism, govt. backs down on orange passports", January 31). Such plans that are bound to create controversy need to be analysed in advance. Migrant labourers contribute their mite in other ways and discriminating against them in the form of a different passport would have been unwise.

A.J. RANGARAJAN,
Chennai

'Pakoda' politics

If I remember right, it was P. Chidambaram, when Finance Minister, who extolled the virtues of self-employment. He must be aware that those who are self-employed serve the cause of the nation by not seeking employment outside, and also providing jobs to others, thereby contributing to the nation's economy in their own way. If *pakoda* selling is not self-employment, what else is? Is only being employed in a McDonald's or KFC outlet deemed righteous employment? Mr. Chidambaram must also be aware that some of the unlettered, self-employed men in our country earn far more than formally employed, highly qualified men. It was also during Mr. Chidambaram's tenure that the 'Sarlai' form was introduced as a part of

filing IT returns to bring those who are self-employed under the IT net ("Chidambaram, BJP in war of words", January 29).

SIVAMANI VASUDEVAN,
Chennai

■ A *pakoda* seller makes his own living using his entrepreneurial skills and taking calculated risks. His survival depends on so many factors specific to the product. He is also, in several instances, the breadwinner in his family and possibly an employer for many. He is symbolic of free-spirited Indian youth who try not to be a burden to society, but contribute to it by providing employment instead. The former Finance Minister's idea of "employment" is perhaps linked to the idea prevalent under British rule, when only holding a government job qualified as being

"settled". In today's world, those such as the humble *pakoda* seller are a vital conduit for the free flow of corruption-free resources from the bottom to the top of the hierarchy.

SHRIKANTH KOLATHAYA,
Puttur, Karnataka

■ Mr. Chidambaram has raised a valid question of job security in selling *pakodas* for a reasonable and secured standard of living for all. No doubt the BJP government has been reiterating the point that lakhs of jobs will be created during its five-year term, but it appears to be a mirage. There needs to be data on jobs created which will help us analyse the efforts being made to create employment. Enough of the rhetoric.

R. RANGARAJAN,
Secunderabad

www.hindu.co.in/opinion/letters/

YES, NO, IT'S COMPLICATED

Should India have simultaneous elections?

YES



BHUPENDER YADAV is a BJP member of the Rajya Sabha and national general secretary of the BJP

It will ensure consistency, continuity and governance, which are integral to democracy

ree and fair elections are integral to democracy. Continuity, consistency and governance are also integral to democracy. And democracy, to my mind, also implies good governance. To achieve this, elections are held. But if the means (elections) become the goal, this will not serve democracy well. Holding simultaneous elections will ensure consistency, continuity and governance, and elections then will only be the means to achieve this and not an end in themselves. Implementing simultaneous polls would require a substantial

shift from the status quo and would involve amendments to the Constitution and election-related laws. However, does that mean we stop this much-needed reform? Certainly not.

Strengthening democracy Earlier, tax collections were separate for the Centre and the States. We introduced the Goods and Services Tax Council through a constitutional amendment and changed the pattern of taxation between the Centre and the States. If the purpose of amendments is to streng-

then democracy and governance, they should be brought in. The Constitution has been amended in the past to achieve this goal.

Let us look at the stumbling blocks in the current system of holding elections. In terms of governance and implementation of development programmes, enforcing the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is detrimental. If we are preoccupied with local body elections and Assembly elections throughout the year, where is the time for developmental work? A system must therefore be evolved to give a period of five years to the incumbent government



to focus on governance. Five years mean five years of stable governance. If we are occupied with Vidhan Sabha elections, Zilla Parishad elections, Panchayat elections, and municipal elections throughout the year, where is the time for developmental work, with the MCC kicking in every time these elections are held?

Curbing corruption Simultaneous elections can also be a means to curb corruption and build a more conducive socio-economic ecosystem. While the Election Commission's efforts to curb illicit finances are laudable, elections

continue to be a conduit for black money and corruption. Frequent electoral cycles disrupt normal public life by impacting the delivery of essential services. They also provide opportunities to unscrupulous elements to create tears in the social fabric of society. Then there is the administrative machinery to be taken into account and the expenses incurred. Frequent elections pose a huge burden on resources – both manpower and financial. Security personnel and government officials are effectively put on election duty for many months in a year. A case in point is the recurring engagement of teachers for election duty, as a result of which students suffer. The cost of

elections runs into thousands of crores and has been rising steadily. The opportunity cost of these lost resources is too high to ignore as India is a resource-constrained developing economy. Simultaneous elections can bring the much-needed operational efficiency in this exercise. Holding simultaneous elections is not merely about elections; it is about stable governance. Such a sensitive and far-reaching reform requires unanimous support from all political parties. Parliamentary Committee reports have proposed implementable roadmaps for simultaneous elections.

As told to Anuradha Raman

NO



SUHAS PALSHIKAR is co-director of the Lokniti programme at Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and chief editor of Studies in Indian Politics

It implies a disdain for the parliamentary system and the federal arrangement

The so-called simultaneous elections to Parliament and State legislatures till 1967 were less by design and more due to the stable majorities thrown up by the electorate then. When that neatness was lost in the 1960s and later in the 1990s, it owed much to the dismantling of the dominant party system. Since then, coalition politics has brought stability, added to the vibrancy of democracy, and ensured an active role for State parties and greater power-sharing among parties. Of course, the electoral cycle became staggered and has remained so over

the past 50 years. Then comes the proposal to convert elections into a disciplined affair with a grand idea of simultaneous elections.

The question of burden Grand proposals are not necessarily welcome proposals. Democratic politics has a tendency to be chaotic, but there are limits to the corrective abilities of formal legal provisions. On paper, it looks like a nice idea to streamline the staggered electoral cycle where there is an average of more than five State elections every year. A specious argu-

ment is made that such an electoral cycle overburdens parties and the electoral machinery.

Even if elections were to take place simultaneously, parties contesting in only one State would anyway be similarly burdened. So, the complaint probably takes too much care of only 'national' parties. And as for the electoral machinery, why do we have a lengthy schedule? This is necessitated by the logistic requirement of movement of the requisite security forces. That constraint would remain even if simultaneous elections were held. So, what is the benefit of holding all elections simultaneously?



Then it is argued that a staggered cycle puts policymakers at a disadvantage because of the constraints of the code of conduct. This problem emerges mainly because parties and governments fail to arrive at a consensus on the scope of the code of conduct and the meaning of what constitutes policymaking and what constitutes distribution of patronage. So, where exactly are the serious disadvantages of staggered elections?

The power of the legislature If we enforce the system of simultaneous elections, we would need to curtail the legislature's power to

unseat a government. It would be mandatory to have a 'constructive vote of no-confidence'. This means that no opposition party would be able to table a no-confidence motion unless it has the capacity to also simultaneously form a new government. The fundamental instrument of the no-confidence motion would thus be effectively taken away. Instead, the life of the legislature would depend on the cycle of a fixed term.

Penalising States Both the purpose and the procedure imply a disdain for the parliamentary system and the federal arrangement. Because, as is currently proposed, when everything else

fails, democratic government would be sacrificed at the altar of simultaneous elections, and at the State level at least, the President would carry on the government for the remainder of the period or the new legislature shall have only a truncated term instead of the full five-year term. So, States would be penalised if the legislature is unable to produce a majority government. Such far-reaching changes would bring back memories of the 42nd Amendment Act. And like that amendment, this one too would undoubtedly seek to tinker with many basic principles that the Constitution upholds. So, a grand design indeed, albeit with an uncertain outcome and dubious intent.

IT'S COMPLICATED



S.Y. QURAISHI is a former Chief Election Commissioner

Holding simultaneous elections is certainly desirable but not feasible

have always maintained that this is certainly desirable but not feasible. For it to be feasible, we need a political consensus, which is not easy to achieve. There has to be a political willingness to discuss this issue before we talk of a consensus. It is good that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is talking about a consensus instead of forcibly pushing this plan through. His reasons for advocating simultaneous elections are exorbitant expenditure and the repeated dislocation of administrative machinery on election duty throughout the year. I'd like to add two

more factors. One, elections have unfortunately become the root cause of corruption. When we are in constant election mode, we are also in permanent corruption mode. When crores are spent in elections, crores have to be collected by hook or by crook. The way out is to cut the role played by money in elections, and this can come about only through a ceiling on political party expenditure. The other aspect is the state funding of elections. Besides, elections have become too divisive. Communal riots and caste disturbances are deliber-

ately created around election time to ensure polarisation of communities for electoral gains.

Spirit of federalism Arguments against the holding of simultaneous elections are equally convincing: this goes against the spirit of the Constitution and against the spirit of federalism. Besides, there is a practical difficulty. Suppose simultaneous elections are held but the government loses its majority in the Lok Sabha, as Atal Bihari Vajpayee did within 13 days in power, will we then hold a new set of elections in all the 29 States too, even if they have an ab-



solute majority? Why should the States suffer for the electoral decisions taken at the Centre? Also, national and local issues are different, and holding simultaneous elections is likely to blur judgment. The poor love elections because the vote is the only power they have. Otherwise, they don't get to see their legislators after the elections for the next five years. Repeated elections keep legislators on their toes and increases accountability. But even if simultaneous elections are called for, the Constitution has provided for a five-year term. In order to bring about uniform elec-

tions, we have to increase or decrease the term of Parliament and State Assemblies. Who would want the term of the House to be reduced? The ruling dispensation would not like a reduction from five years and the Opposition would not like an extension beyond five years. That's why a consensus is an uphill task.

Casting simultaneous votes As regards logistical and administrative feasibility, simultaneous elections would be most convenient for the Election Commission. Since voters, polling personnel, and polling booths are all the same, it does not matter if the voter is casting her vote for one election or

two or three. I have seen voters casting seven votes at the same time in elections in Kenya for seven different posts. Feasibility aside, there is apprehension that whenever there is a majoritarian government at the Centre, any anti-incumbency in the States is likely to get neutralised if simultaneous elections are held. The Election Commission has suggested ways to cut short the duration of polls by making available the Central Armed Police Forces – five times more than what is provided to the Commission now. All these factors have to be thought through before a consensus is worked out.

As told to Anuradha Raman

SINGLE FILE

Without Lula?

On the challenge to Brazil's politics

GARIMELLA SUBRAMANIAM



With a Porto Alegre court upholding Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's conviction in a corruption case, his chances of being allowed to contest the presidential elections in October have narrowed. Almost instantly, and perhaps in a sign of defiance, the left-leaning Workers' Party (PT) announced its decision to field Mr. Lula. The developments echo divisions of the anti-corruption crusades that had engulfed Brazil's business and political elites and millions of citizens owing allegiance to the architects of the generous welfare and inclusive growth policies of the previous decade. At the root of the ongoing crisis are the so-called Lava Jato, or Operation Car Wash, investigations into alleged kickbacks and political patronage involving the state-owned oil giant. The plea-bargaining provisions in Brazil's anticorruption law, which reduce jail terms for defendants in return for testimonies to prosecutors, set off a witch-hunt among the political classes anxious for their own survival. Mr. Lula himself was sentenced to nine years in prison in the original July conviction, for corruption and money laundering; that term was increased by two more years last week. More sensational was the 2016 Senate vote to impeach a sitting president, Dilma Rousseff, Mr. Lula's anointed successor, for budgetary manoeuvres to conceal a yawning fiscal deficit. To critics of that decision, the move to remove Ms. Rousseff, who had displayed no motive of personal enrichment, amounted to a coup. The current incumbent, Michel Temer, whose centre-right opposition Brazilian Democratic Movement party has been a junior partner in previous PT governments, has so far survived Congressional votes for the commencement of a trial for approving bribes. The Supreme Court's move to set aside a recent presidential decree, which lowers prison terms for certain offences, perhaps reflects the kind of proactive judicial scrutiny that executive actions are subject to in the prevailing atmosphere. While the courts are clearly focused on bringing in transparency in governance structures, there is concern that Brazil's independent judiciary, equipped to fight graft in high places, could set off unintended consequences in terms of eroding political stability. That could prove costly for Latin America's largest economy, as it grapples with the current economic and social upheaval following the collapse of commodity prices and pension and labour market reforms. Financial markets were expectedly buoyed by the decision to uphold Mr. Lula's conviction last week. But his potential removal from seeking re-election has also raised the risk that the centrist platform could be weakened. A vacuum at the political middle ground would be an invitation to populist outsiders eager to capitalise on the public disenchantment with soaring unemployment, a steep fall in real incomes and widening inequalities. With a vast number of leaders occupying elected office facing judicial investigations, the public mood in Brazil is rightly on holding them to account. The challenge for Brazil's mainstream politics is to demonstrate the capacity for renewal.



CONCEPTUAL

Dutch sandwich

This refers to a form of tax avoidance used by companies that have their operations across the world to minimise the amount of taxes that they pay on their profits. The technique involves the transfer of a company's profits through a subsidiary in the Netherlands, where the tax on the transfer of corporate profits is low compared to other countries. Tech giants like Google, Facebook and Apple are the most notable companies that manage to pay low taxes on their profits by using the various intricacies of tax laws across countries.

MORE ON THE WEB

How India earns: government treasury inflows decoded
<http://bit.ly/howindiaearns>

ACT ONE

Giving construction workers their due

Funds collected for the workers have not been disbursed

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

On January 17, the Supreme Court pulled up the government for failing to implement the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act of 1996. "If the government is not serious, tell us," the court said. It added this was a "completely helpless situation". The 1996 Act is meant to regulate the employment and conditions of service of building and other construction workers and to provide for their safety, health and welfare. The matter of slow progress of implementation has been brought up earlier too. The government has collected over ₹35,000 crore in cess for the welfare of construction workers employed in the high-risk and hazardous construction industry that is

mostly controlled by private companies. In 2015, the apex court had said that it was "ridiculous" that this money was going to "some babus". In November 2012, the Union Cabinet had approved of amendments to the 1996 Act and the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act of 1996 in order to streamline the process of registration of construction workers. These two Acts apply to establishments that employ 10 or more workers. The major source of funds to the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board is the collection of cess at the rate of 1% of the construction cost incurred by the employer under the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act. The fund has to be utilised for the welfare of

such workers. The Centre is the implementing agency in the Central sphere and State governments implement the provisions of the Act at the State level. Under the Act, the States have to constitute welfare boards, make rules, constitute advisory committees and appoint various authorities for registration of workers, cess collection, and inspection. The Labour Ministry in 2017 informed the court that the number of workers registered under the Act had increased from 2.15 crore to 2.8 crore. It said that the cess collected also went up from ₹25,477 crore to ₹37,482 crore. The court said that it was important to ensure that the beneficiaries of the Act are "construction workers who are primarily migrant workers and most, if not all of them, are indigent and extremely poor".

FROM The Hindu. ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 2, 1968

Experts evolve cropping patterns

Expecting Indian agriculture to move into an intensive phase in the near future, agricultural experts and research workers from various parts of the country have suggested future cropping patterns. The experts, who concluded a five-day symposium at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute here [New Delhi], have divided the country into various regions and suggested as many as 325 cropping patterns, covering almost all the major crops, both cereals and non-cereals. At the concluding session of the symposium, Mr. B. Sivaraman, Union Agriculture Secretary, suggested that the most appropriate agency to put across the idea to the farmers was national demonstration.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 2, 1918.

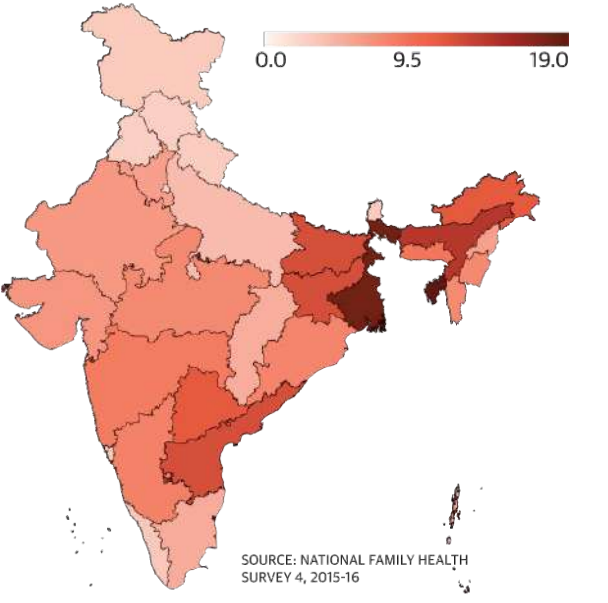
Plague in India.

The number of plague deaths reported in India during the week ending the 19th of January 1918 was 2,543, an increase of 1,074 over the total for the preceding week. In no week in January during the 12 years 1906-1917 has the plague mortality approximated that of the week under report, the next highest figures being 20,929 and 29,167 for the last and third week of January 1911 and 13,685 for the third week of January 1917. Increased mortality as compared with the previous week is reported from Madras, Behar and Orissa and Rajputana.

DATA POINT

Teenage mothers

The percentage of girls in the 15-19 age group giving birth has halved from 16% in 2005-06 to 8% in 2015-16, reveals the National Family Health Survey 4. But there is considerable variation in the figures for different regions, with Tripura, West Bengal and Assam faring the worst.



Maliwal ‘disappointed’

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Expressing disappointment over the Budget presented on Thursday, Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal said, “Despite the country witnessing increasing child sexual abuse and having witnessed the rape of an eight-month-old baby, it deeply pains me to note that no measures have been announced to enhance the safety of women and children.”

DELHI Timings		
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 02		
RISE	20:06	SET 08:26
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 03		
RISE	07:08	SET 18:02
RISE	21:09	SET 09:09
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 04		
RISE	22:09	SET 09:48

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	28	11
Safdarjang	28	11
Palam	27	11

Delhi Palam Today
26°C A nippy morning and a partly cloudy sky is likely. A pleasant afternoon and a cold night to prevail.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
26°C A cool morning and a humid afternoon is likely. Sky will remain sunny. A cold night to prevail.

© Copyright Skyline Weather 2018
All rights reserved.

Stepmotherly treatment to Delhi continues: CM

‘AAP govt’s request for grant goes unheard’

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Union government’s Budget for 2018-2019 had continued the “stepmotherly treatment” for Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Thursday.

Reacting to Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley’s Budget speech on Thursday, Mr. Kejriwal said in a tweet, “I had expected some financial assistance to important infrastructure projects for national capital. Am disappointed that Centre continues its stepmotherly treatment to Delhi [sic]”.

In another tweet, he said, “There is nothing for the middle class and traders in this budget. Completely ignored [sic].”

Manish Sisodia, who as Delhi Finance Minister had asked the Centre for additional funds this year, termed the Budget “disappointing”. He said Delhi’s share of Central taxes had

remained the same since 2001-2002 at ₹325 crore, while the Budget of the Delhi government had increased from ₹8,739 crore that year to ₹48,000 crore in 2017-2018.

The Delhi government had also asked for ₹1,000 crore as a grant for local bodies, which was not in the Budget, said Mr. Sisodia. He added that the AAP government had asked for the normal Central assistance to be increased to ₹1,500 crore, but the Centre had allocated ₹449.99 crore – a ₹37 crore increase from the previous year. In all, the Budget for Delhi had been increased by only 4.2%, said Mr. Sisodia.

In order to boost public transport, he said the government had asked for a special package to buy 2,000 electric buses. “This could have played a major role in combating air pollution. Unfortunately, the Centre does not care for Delhi,” he said.

Doctors few, overworked: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

As the Centre came out with budget proposals on Thursday, the Delhi High Court remarked that investment on health care by the Union was

“minimal” leading to “overworked” and fewer doctors in State-run facilities. The Bench made the observations while hearing PILs on rise in attacks on doctors in government hospitals here.

Middle class to bear brunt of govt’s proposals: AAP

‘Proof of Centre’s plan to exact vengeance’

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday said that the Budget presented by the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is a proof of the Centre’s plan to exact “vengeance” on the Delhi government.

Reacting on the Budget, AAP’s newly sworn-in Rajya Sabha MP Narain Dass Gupta, who is also a chartered accountant by profession, said the middle class will bear the brunt of the Centre’s proposals.



N.D. Gupta at a press conference in the Capital.
• SHANKER CHAKRAVARTY

Increased cess

“Mr. Jaitley said the salaried class have been given a deduction in tax. However, at the same time, the cess has been increased from 3% to 4%, which means that they will end up paying more,” Mr. Gupta said.

He also called out Mr. Jaitley’s claims that the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) will benefit.

“When the BJP government came to power in 2014, they had claimed that they will phase off the corporate tax. They have wrongly claimed that the SMEs will benefit now. The benefit is going to go to large industries. In fact, for SMEs, liability will go up because of the increase in cess,” he

Delhi Police Budget allocation up

Nirbhaya Fund gets ₹19.75 cr; no new scheme announced

STAFF REPOTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police have been allocated ₹7,426.98 crore in the Union Budget for the next fiscal, an increase of ₹1,048.8 crore from the last year’s Budget of ₹6,378.18 crore, with ₹19.75 crore being set aside for the Nirbhaya Fund.

During 2017-18, ₹464 crore was hiked compared to the previous Budget. However, in the 2018-19 Budget more than ₹1,048 crore has

been hiked compared to the 2017-18 Budget.

Police infrastructure

Of the total amount allotted in the Budget, ₹460.95 crore has been granted for police infrastructure, which comprises office and residential building projects.

Last year, ₹28.90 crore was set aside for enhancing measures for ensuring women’s security in the Capital, but this time only ₹19.75 crore has been allotted.

“Last year, the Budget under the Nirbhaya Fund was more because it included expenditure on infrastructure. However, this year it does not include any expenditure on infrastructure,” said a police officer. No new scheme has been announced in the Budget.

The Budget estimate has put non-plan expenditure at ₹6,946.28 crore, a major jump over the current fiscal’s estimate of ₹5,910.28 crore.

Jaitley proposes scheme to tackle air pollution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Taking cognisance of the impact of stubble burning on air pollution in Delhi, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said that a scheme was on the anvil to address this.

“The region has been a cause for concern. A special scheme will be implemented to support the efforts of the governments of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and the NCT of Delhi to address air pollution and to subsidise machinery required for in situ management of crop residue,” he said in his address.

However, he spelt out neither a mechanism, nor a budgetary allocation. The Environment Ministry’s

budgetary allocation hasn’t particularly increased; it remains ₹2,675 crore like last year and a sub-head – on pollution abatement – continues to be ₹20 crore this year, a tad less than ₹21 crore allotted last year.

Stubble burning

Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan said in a statement that India’s “...scientists are also working to develop a viable process to handle stubble.”

Earlier this month, Dr. Vardhan had said that the Centre will launch a joint campaign for two weeks, with the Delhi government, the New Delhi Municipal Council, the Central Pollution Control Board and other

municipal agencies to sensitise people about air pollution. There will be a team of 70 officers, led jointly by one officer each from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and one officer from the Delhi government.

For over a year now, the government has been having meetings with Environment Ministers of States surrounding Delhi to evolve a common action plan to deal with air pollution, which also worsened around winter. One of the reasons for the spike in pollution was particulate matter from Punjab and Uttar Pradesh due to farmers burning stubble to prepare their fields for the next cycle of crops.

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:
www.thehinduads.com
011-43579738 • 43579797

EDUCATIONAL

INTEGRITY COMPASSION EXCELLENCE

SAMKALP

(A SOCIALLY COMMITTED ORGANISATION)

IAS GUIDANCE CUM COACHING
SOUTH DELHI CENTRE, R K PURAM
(FOR BEST RESULTS & REASONABLE FEES)

ANNOUNCES

NEW BATCHES (REGULAR & WEEKEND)
FOR GS PRE CUM MAINS & OPTIONALS,
(BOTH ENGLISH & HINDI MEDIUM)

FOR 'CSE 2019'

ORIENTATION & INTERACTIVE SESSIONS
WITH OUR HIGHLY EXPERIENCED FACULTY ON
17TH FEB. 2018 AT 10:30 AM
C-SAT & REGULAR CLASSES FROM
22ND FEB. 2018

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CENTRE:-

- 46 Students got selected in 2017 from CSE 2016
- Well designed class tests & Test Series both for Prelims & Mains developed by our own faculty

SAMKALP Bhawan, Plot No.15, Sec-IV, R.K.Puram,
New Delhi-110022 (Near ICICI Bank)
Contact : 9811582118, 9811279643, 8800674234,
9650139107, 9650139106
www.samkalp.org, samkalpiascoaching.com

EDUCATIONAL

ALS Alternative Learning Systems

IAS 2017 Results

Total Selections 231+

इतिहास

By HEMANT JHA

कार्यशाला के साथ बैच प्रारंभ

FEB 05 8:30am

Venue: Vardhman Plaza, Nehru Vihar

B-19, ALS House, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009
9999343999, 9311331331, 9999975666

VVR-IAS

INDIA'S BEST TEACHERS FOR GENERAL STUDIES

011-45596505, 9999329111

25/24, (Opp. to Duke's Bakery) Old Rajendra Nagar, Delhi-60.
www.vvrias.com

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKEND BATCH

ONE DEMO CLASS

COMPREHENSIVE 5 MONTH BATCH

by Dr. Manish Kumar

STARTS 03rd FEB 10:30AM

04th FEB

• A comprehensive 5 month batch to cover Current news and Events from January to May.

• The program will also exclusively cover the Current News and important events from JUNE-17 to DEC-17.

• Highly enriched & comprehensive Booklets will be given to the students along with 500+ hundred objective type questions from current affairs. This will be very useful in learning and selection process.

Sources: The Hindu, Indian Express, PIB, Yojna and issue based EPW

EDUCATIONAL

NICE IAS

The Institute For Competitive Excellence

Ph. 09910944333, 011-47065959 • www.nice-ias.com

Prelims Test Series 2018

Highlights:

- Starting from 10th Feb
- 20 Mock Test (11 part tests+5 full syllabus Test+5CSAT)
- Detailed Solution after each tests
- Discussion of Tests
- Fee: Rs 4000/- (Early bird discount of 50% for first 20 students)

Conducted by Team of IITians

Basement, House No. 59, Block No. 23, Old Rajendra Ngr., Delhi-60.

MOCK INTERVIEW

With panel of experts
Comprising
Current & Former Members
of INTERVIEW BOARDS

Register Immediately, No Fee

INSIGHT

NORTH DELHI 011-45090051
09818333201

CENTRAL DELHI 09871216382

EDUCATIONAL

Dear IAS ASPIRANTS

GET READY FOR INTERVIEW - 2018

IAS IPS Sri Chaitanya IAS Academy IFS IRS

Shaping India's Next Generation Leaders

Evaluate yourself before UPSC evaluates you

INTERVIEW GUIDANCE PROGRAMME

By

PANEL OF SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS

under the esteemed guidance of

Amb. Surendra Kumar, IFS Retd.
(Formerly Dean Foreign Service Institute, Secy, Ministry of External Affairs)

V.K. Agnihotri, IAS Retd.
(Former Secretary General, Rajya Sabha)

Capt. S. N. Shukla, IRS Retd.
(Former Member of Central Administrative Tribunal)

M. L. Kumawat, IPS Retd.
(Former director general BSF, Former Chairman, Rajasthan Public Service Commission)

Sessions will commence from 5th February 2018

Highlights:

- Customised inputs based on your bio data/service preference/personal profile.
- Get valuable tips and techniques to face the interview
- Enjoy the advantage of early preparation for best results

Admission on prior registration only

SRI CHAITANYA IAS ACADEMY

22-B, Rajender Nagar Right Side, Main Bazar Marg,
Pusa Road, Near Metro Pillar-112, New Delhi-60.
Ph: 01145609516/17, 9910023640, 9910023530

निर्माण IAS

सफलता का पर्याय कमल देव (K.D.)

सा. अध्ययन

फाउण्डेशन बैच-2019

9 FEB. 3:00 PM

CSAT

(PRE EXAM-2018)

12 FEB. 12:30 PM

साक्षात्कार कार्यक्रम

C.S.E.-2017

3 FEB. 6:00 PM

INTERNATIONAL BURNING ISSUES

by RAHEES SIR

REGISTRATION OPEN FREE FOR ALL

996 1st Floor, Mukherjee Nagar (Near Gandhi Vihar Bandh), Delhi-9
Ph:- 011-47058219, 9911581653 9717767797

PANINI IAS CLASSES

संस्कृत

K.B sir & others

MARKS IAS कक्षा परम्परा

141+175

आज 316

08558 PG7/TGT

2016 में संस्कृत में प्राप्तकर्ता (Marks)

कीर्ति पुरा में 310 में नंबर को 251 में पुरा पुरा 290

में नंबर को 289 में नंबर को 283 में नंबर को 275 में

9986, Top floor Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-99
9958122675, 9911480369, 7838854414

PACKERS

SHIFTING EXPERTS

agarwalpackers.in

A DRS Group Company | ISO 9001 : 2008

www.agarwalpackers.in

DELHI : 9310203271

GURGOAN : 9310834769

GHAZIABAD : 8595418199

DHYEYA IAS

most trusted since 2003

INTERVIEW PROGRAMME

3rd & 4th February

Our Panelist

DR. NOOR MOHAMMED

IAS Topper 77 Batch

EX. ELECTION COMMISSIONER

EX. VICE CHANCELLOR (AMU)

MR. S.K. MISHRA

Retd. IRS

EX. MEMBER REVENUE BOARD

EX. MEMBER CBEC

MR. MANJEET SINGH

Retd. IAS

EX. SECRETARY FINANCE, HOME

MR. QAMAR AGHA

WIDELY ACCLAIMED

SR. JOURNALIST

MR. Q.H. KHAN

MANAGING DIRECTOR

DHYEYA IAS

25B, 1st Floor, Pusa Road, Old Rajendra Nagar,
Metro Pillar Number 117, New Delhi

9205274744, 9205274745

KSG

Every 3rd Selected Candidate of
UPSC-CSE '16 is from KSG

MOCK INTERVIEW

CALL# 9811 293 743 & 8010 023 123

It Pays to Study with Specialist...

PT & MAINS TEST SERIES

21ST JANUARY 2018

SPECIAL FOCUS ON ANSWER WRITING SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The power of general studies at KSG

N. DELHI : T- 011-4555 2607, M- 9717 380 832

C. DELHI : T- 011-4517 0303, M- 9811 293 743

JAIPUR : T- 0141-4052 441, M- 8290 800 441

BHOPAL : T- 0755-4077 441, M- 7509 975 361

INDORE : T- 0731-4977 441, M- 9893 772 941

PATNA : T- 7463 950 774, M- 9386 337 412

download KSGINDIA

www.ksgindia.com

DHYEYA IAS

most trusted since 2003

PRELIMS REFRESHER COURSE 2018

ARE YOU AFRAID OF PRELIMS 2018?

Only less than 2% aspirants qualify IAS Prelims

Ensure your success with Dhyeya IAS

Investing

75 Days (300+ hours)

BATCH STARTS

5th FEB. | 3 PM

LIMITED SEATS: 100 ONLY

TO AVAIL 100% SCHOLARSHIP

(Only for Top 10 Students)

participate in

ALL INDIA GS TEST (PRE-2018)

4th FEB. | 12 PM

OLD RAJENDRA NAGAR

25B, 2ND FLOOR, PUSA ROAD,
METRO PILLAR NUMBER 117, NEW DELHI

9205274743 / 9205274745

IN BRIEF

Duo held for robbery

NEW DELHI
Two men have been arrested for allegedly stabbing and robbing a businessman of ₹24,000 at Mahila Mangal Road late on January 24, the police said on Thursday. Dakshinpur residents Jahid Khan (30) and Madar Khan (26) planned the robbery to start their own business, the police said. STAFF REPORTER

Man dead, teenager held

NEW DELHI
A day after he was allegedly hit by a speeding car driven by a boy (17) in Rohini, Manjit (25) died on Wednesday, the police said on Thursday. The teenager has been apprehended. STAFF REPORTER

Minor shoots himself

NEW DELHI
A boy (14) who was allegedly depressed shot himself in the chest with his father's pistol around 6.30 p.m. on Sunday in Adarsh Nagar, the police said on Thursday. He survived as the bullet missed his heart. STAFF REPORTER

Boys held for hit-and-run

NEW DELHI
Four minors have been apprehended in connection with a hit-and-run case reported from Hauz Khas last week, the police said on Thursday. Two women had sustained injuries in the incident. The accused are school students. STAFF REPORTER

SDMC blames govt

For delay in notification of 351 roads

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
South Delhi Municipal Corporation Mayor Kamaljeet Sehrawat on Thursday alleged that the Delhi government was trying to gain political mileage on the issue of notification of 351 roads in the city for mixed land use.

‘Unnecessary delay’

In a joint media briefing with SDMC Standing Committee chairperson Bhupender Gupta, Ms. Sehrawat said the Delhi government was unnecessarily delaying the notification of 351 roads.

“A notification was issued by the erstwhile Ministry of Urban Development on September 7, 2006, to notify the streets after a survey undertaken by the local body to assess the extent of non-residential activities in residential premises. Mixed use allows access to commercial activities in residential premises and reduces the need for commuting across zones in the city,” the Mayor

added.

Ms. Sehrawat said the local body conducted surveys and identified 2,183 roads. The surveys were then forwarded to the Delhi government for notification without imposing any condition.

Master Plan 2021

“In 2007, when the Master Plan 2021 was initiated, the municipalities were asked to survey 355 roads. We were given 90 days to conduct the surveys and submit them,” Ms. Sehrawat said.

‘Govt demand’

She added that the Delhi government's demand that the civic bodies reassess the roads and submit a report is only a way to delay the process of notification.

“We will resubmit the report on Friday but this has only delayed what could have happened a month ago. We had taken 90 days for the survey and it was done properly,” she claimed.

DJB nod for purchase of 200 sewer-cleaning machines

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Jal Board on Thursday approved the purchase of 200 sewer-cleaning machines, construction of two new underground reservoirs and waiver of arrears on additional sewer charges for consumers in Dwarka.

At a meeting chaired by Chief Minister and Board chairperson Arvind Kejriwal, the purchase of 200 tailor-made machines to clean

sewers was given administrative approval. In a statement, the DJB said these machines will reduce human involvement in cleaning drains. The DJB also cleared regulations for sewer cleaning.

With rising ammonia levels in the Yamuna hitting treatment plants repeatedly, the DJB approved an additional line for raw water near Haiderpur treatment plant so that dependence on the Yamuna can be reduced.

21 students fall ill

After consuming iron tablets

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
Twenty-one students of a government school allegedly fell ill after consuming iron tablets in east Delhi's Chilla Village on Thursday, hospital authorities said.

Severe stomach ache

The students of Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya in east Delhi's Mayur Vihar complained of severe stomach ache after consuming iron tablets given

to them during the lunch hour.

All the students were taken to Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital.

Discharged

“We received 21 children in batches and all of them were ill. They are out of danger and were discharged after treatment,” said Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital Medical Superintendent Amita Saxena.

Student dead

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
A Class IX student of a private school in Karawal Nagar was declared dead after he was found unconscious in the washroom on Thursday morning, the police said, adding that he did not have any external injuries. They said a student found the boy (14) unconscious in the washroom around 11 a.m. He was taken to a private hospital, which referred him to GTB Hospital.

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION
OLD SECRETARIAT, DELHI-110054

CORRIGENDUM

Sub: Public Notice of even number dated 27/01/2018 and 28/01/2018 inviting application for Drawing a Panel of Nursery Guest Teachers for Engagement in Delhi Government Schools for the Academic Year 2017-18.

With reference to the subject mention above, "date of apply online has been published 29/02/2018(11:00 AM) to 05/02/2018(6:00 PM) may be read as :

"Date of apply online from 29/01/2018 (11:00 AM) to 05/02/2018 (6:00 PM)."

ASSTT. DIRECTOR EDUCATION, E-V BRANCH

DIP/Shabdarth/3194/17-18

वैक ऑफ बड़ोदा
Bank of Baroda

Main Branch: Vivek Complex, Tharbaranganj Lakhimpur(Kheri) Ph: 05872-256222

DEMAND NOTICE (Under Sec. 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002)

Notice hereby issued under Sec. 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

Date of Demand Notice / Amt. Outstanding	Name of the Account/Borrower /Proprietor/Guarantors	Description of the charged/mortgaged/hypothecated property (all the part & parcel of the property consisting of)
dated 25.01.2018/ Amount O/S Rs. 3033861.00 as on 31.12.2017 +int.& other Charges	Mr. Sudhir Mishra S/o Shyam Sunder Mishra, Moh. Kurnharan Tola, Gola Gokarnanath, Lakhimpur Kheri-252802. Guarantors- Mr. Mainuddin S/o Rehmatulla, Vill Alwa, Post Ratasiya, Lakhimpur Kheri-261501	Land mutated in the favour of Sudhir Mishra S/o Shyam Sunder Mishra and Mainuddin S/o Rehmatulla. Land of Gata No. 104ka/749 Hec situated at Vill. Anethi Pargana Haidradab Tehsil Mitauli District Kheri. Boundaries-East: Grove of Chotay, West: Grove of Abdul Rajak, North: Grove. Inshaquli, South: West.

Above Borrower has availed loans/credit facilities from our Bank as per details given above. In consideration of the credit facilities availed in the accounts and to secure repayments of the said loans/credit facilities availed by borrower and Guarantor have executed various documents whereby and where under charge/mortgage/assignment/hypothecated have been created over immovable/movable properties in favour of the Bank as per details given above. Though the said loan is already due for repayment, borrower & guarantors have failed and/or neglected to repay the outstanding dues or regularise the account in spite of our repeated requests. Borrower & Guarantor have violated the terms of Sanction and also made the account irregular and as a consequence the account has become a non-performing asset and has been classified by our Bank as such, as per RBI guidelines. By this notice, Borrower & Guarantors are called upon to discharge the entire liability as on date of demand notice and also future interest thereon, as specified above to us as secured creditor within 90 days from the date of this notice, failing which the Bank shall be constrained to exercise all or any of its rights conferred under Sec. 13(4) and other provisions of the above act. Please take notice that in terms of Sec. 13(13) of the said act, if and after receipt of this notice by way of sale/lease or otherwise any of the secured assets above referred to without prior written consent of our Bank, Borrower & Guarantors are also put on Notice that any contravention of the injunction/restraint as provided under the said Act is an offence. This notice is issued without prejudice to any other rights available to our Bank under the above Act and/or any other law in force.

Your attention is invited to the provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the act in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset. The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property /ies and any dealing with the property /ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for the amounts and interest thereon mentioned against each account herein below.

Place: Lakhimpur Kheri-01.02.2018

Authorised Officer

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:
www.thehinduads.com
011-43579738 • 43579797

Dr. RAMASWAMY IAS ACADEMY

MOCK INTERVIEW
BATCH 3 (6th, Feb. Tue)

Flat Num: 22, Rajendra Park , Old Rajendra Nagar , Near Rajendra place Metro station Gate Num : 3 , Opp: Shankar Road Fire Station , New Delhi 110060
Contact No.: 9350933144, 9958589406, 9958589106

BUDGET & ECO. SURVEY

In Depth Analysis with Facts & Insights. 5TH FEB. 15 HRS.

Useful for all competitive exams like UPSC, SSC, Bank, RRB, CBI, Insurance, EPFO etc.

REGULAR CLASSES FEE 500/- ONLY

Join the Expert

RAVI R. CHOKKALINGAM
(M.D. Philosophy)

ONLINE CLASSES FEE 199/- ONLY

18/1, 3rd Floor, Old Rajendra Nagar, Delhi.
Website: www.risingias.co.in
Tel: 8447007118

IMS
(INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES)

VVR-IAS
(INDIA'S Best Trainers for GENERAL STUDIES)

IAS INTERVIEW BATCH-2018

STARTS 03 Feb. & 04 Feb. 11:00AM

The opening session of lecture will be delivered by **MANISH GURWANI IAS(AIR-18,2016)**
Batch starts with Interview Classes on Personality and Psychological aspects

Detailed Analysis of DAF and personalized guidance.
Extensive Questionnaires on possible aspects from DAF.
Emphasis upon unravelling the vulnerable areas in your personality to outshine your competitors.
Classes on psychological, Motivational, Current Affairs and Nuances of Administrative Traits.
Mock Video with Feedback followed by Another Mock to Manifest the Best inside you.

Under the Guidance of
K. VENKANNIA
(Director - IAS & VVRS)
MOHAN R
(M.D. Philosophy)
DR. AMBUJ SRIVASTAVA
(Ethics, Personality Development and Motivational Speaker)

OPEN TO ALL INTERVIEW CANDIDATES

25/24, 2ND FLOOR (OPP DUKE'S BAKERY) OLD RAJENDER NAGAR, DELHI-60.
9999197625, 9999329111, 011-45596505

EDUCATIONAL

Dr. RAMASWAMY IAS ACADEMY

BUDGET 2018 ECO. SURVEY

Dr. B. RAMASWAMY
Motivator, Author, Educator
WITH OTHER EXPERTS

Budget 2018 For the UPSC exam perspectives.

Flat No.22, Rajendra Park , Old Rajendra Nagar, Near Rajendra Place Metro Station Gate No.3 , Opp: Shankar Road Fire Station , New Delhi-60
Contact No.: 9350933144, 9958589406, 9958589106
Online Admission Open www.ramaswamyiasacademy.org

LAW AMBITION
LAW INSTITUTE

IAS & JUDICIAL
5th Feb. 4:45 pm

JUDICIAL FOUNDATION COURSE
Registration Open

JUDICIAL WEEKEND
4 Feb. 9:30 am

DJS MOCK Test Series
Starts from 4th Feb. 8800662130

DU LL.B. Special Batch
2nd Feb. 4 p.m. 8800660380

UPSC Interview CLASS SCHEDULE
03 Feb. 2018
G.D.P., Interview and C.G.P. Class
Times 8:00 pm to 7:00 pm
10 Feb. 2018
Constitution & Current Affairs Class
Times 8:00 pm to 7:00 pm 8800662140

Regular Judiciary Evening Batch Starts soon at Mukherjee Ngr.

B-10, first floor, above Maharashtra Bank, Mukherjee Ngr. Delhi
Ph:011-27655079, 47532639, 9312548656

EDUCATIONAL

LEGAL NOTICE

MS. TWINKLE WADHWA
THE COURT OF SH. SURINDER S. RATHI,
AD-02, NEW DELHI DISTRICT
PATALIA HOUSE COURT, NEW DELHI

PC No. 83/16

Mrs. Kaushal Sharma, Petitioner
Vs.
Respondents
1. State Through Collector
2. Mrs. Sharvi Devi Sharma,
W/o Late Surender Kumar Sharma,
R/o House No. 2251, Sector-C, Pocket-II
Vasant Kuri, New Delhi-110070.
3. Mr. Yogita Sharma,
D/o Late Surender Kumar Sharma,
W/o Mr. Eric Jagan Furberho,
R/o House No. 2251, Sector-C, Pocket-2,
Vasant Kuri, New Delhi-110070.

Whereas a petition under section 276 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 for the grant of Probate/Letters of Administration to the petitioner in respect of the immovable property of the estate of Late Surender Kumar Sharma, Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person having objection to the Grant of Probate in his favour in respect of the estate of the deceased more specifically Property bearing No. House No. 2251, Sector-C, Pocket-2, Vasant Kuri, New Delhi-110070, may file the same in the court personally or through counsel on or before the next date of hearing 06.03.2018. Given under my hand and the seal of the court on the 27th day of January, 2018.

INTERVIEW FREE MOCK
2 Feb 2PM

MAINS TEST SERIES

G.S निबंध हिन्दी साहित्य
परिचर्चा by कुमार 'अजेय'

107, 'न्योति स्वर', सुखनं सग, दिल्ली-09
9891360366, 9213162103, 011-27654187

EDUCATIONAL

ORIENT IAS

PRELIMS TEST SERIES -2018

Offline/Online

30 TESTS @ ₹999/-

STARTS: 4th FEBRUARY 2:00 pm

9643772112 9810949873
www.orientias.com
17, Pusa Road, Near Karol Bagh Metro.

CHROME IAS ACADEMY MATHEMATICS

New Batch 07th FEB

Bhavna Khurana, IIT Delhi

53/5, Old Rajender Nagar, Phone No. 9990356864, www.chromeias.com

XPRESSIONS

GREETINGS

"Happy Birthday Divya!"

Stay Blessed Stay Together

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

I SITA RAM VERMA S/O Late Gopi Chand Verma declare that Sitaram Verma and Sitaram and Sita Ram Verma And Sita Ram are all same and belong to one person.

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE
Ida Scudder Road, Vellore-4

CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER VACANCY

Eligibility: Graduate / Ex-Army/Ex-Police / other security services.
One year on Term
Appointment basis
Experience: Minimum 5 years in Security Services
Age Limit: 60 years
Accommodation: Provided
Salary: Commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Apply with Bio-data, Certificate and testimonial copies, contact phone number, email ID and address with pincode to the Director, CMC, Vellore-4.

Email: director@cmcvellore.ac.in
on or before 15-03-2018.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Company Name: Hindustan Unilever Limited
Notice is hereby given that the following Share Certificate(s) for Equity Shares standing in the name of Samir Sood have been lost and undersigned has applied to the Company to issue duplicate Certificate(s) for the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim, with the Company at its reg. address-Unilever House, B.D. Sawant Marg, Chakala, Andheri (E), Mumbai-400099 within one month from this date else the Company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Folio No.: HLL2863696

Share Certificate Nos.	Distinctive Nos.	No. of Shares
5215882	1030367151-1030367190	40

Name of Shareholder: Mr. Samir Sood
Dated: January 30, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

Company Name: Philips India Limited
Notice is hereby given that the following Share Certificate(s) for Equity Shares standing in the name of Malini Sood have been lost and undersigned has applied to the Company to issue duplicate Certificate(s) for the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim, with the Company at its reg. address: 9th Floor, DLF Cyber City, Sector - 25, DLF Phase - 3, Gurgaon 122002, within one month from this date else the Company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Folio No.:

Share Certificate Nos.	Distinctive Nos.	No. of Shares
PL037659	100030658	110

Name of Shareholder: Malini Sood
Dated: January 30, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients, Ramphal S/o Sh. Satya Narayan, is inclined to buy the residential Property/Plot no. J&K-66, Khuraj Khara, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 (admeasuring 60 sq. yards) from Smt. Savita Rani Gautam R/o Gular Road, Gali no.-1, Moti Masjid, Aligarh, Smt. Santosh Gautam R/o 19/185, Ram Vihar Colony, Aligarh, Smt. Usha Rani Gautam R/o D-24/1, Gali no.-1, Madhuban Mohalla, Delhi-53. All are the absolute owners of their respective shares in the said property/plot. Any person claiming an interest in the said property/plot or any part thereof by way of sale, gift, lease, inheritance, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, possession, easement, attachment or otherwise whatsoever are hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned within 15 days from the date hereof, failing which the said transaction will be completed, without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, shall be considered as waived.

SD/-
ANKIT JAIN (ADVOCATE) C-288, SURAJMAL VIHAR, NEW DELHI - 110092
DATE - 02/02/2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

"Public Notice is hereby given to all concerned and for information to the general public that my client /Buyers Sh. Shiv Kumar Mittal S/o Sh. S.N.Mittal Resident of LL-104, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 has agreed to purchase the built up property bearing no. BP-2/A, Block No. N, H-IV, admeasuring about 332.98 sq.yds. approx situated at Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi-24 from Mr. Minu Kumar S/o Sh. Rishi Pal Resident of Khaila-Teera, Aurangabad, Haidwar, Uttarakhand 246022, as Dharmaputra/GPA of Ashok Chopra S/o Late. Jwala Parshad Chopra, vide GPA dated 07.12.2004 (seller)/through Sh. Rajinder Khanna & Mukesh Jain. The public at large is hereby informed that if any person has any objection in any manner regarding the title and possession of the said property, then same may be informed to our clients or at address mentioned below in writing within 3 days from this public notice, failing which the sale deed shall be executed by the said sellers in favour of our clients and thereafter no such person shall be entitled for any claim over the said property w.r.t. possession and title in any manner whatsoever in any nature."

Akhil Mittal (Advocate)
X-24, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts
Phone: 9212504099/9891180590

PUBLIC NOTICE

Company Name: Phillips Carbon Black Limited.
Company Address: Duncan House, 3rd Floor 31, Netaji Subhas Road, Kolkata 700 001, West Bengal, (India)

Notice is hereby given that the following Share Certificate(s) No(s) standing in the name of Dipak Raj Sood have been lost and application for issue of duplicate certificate(s) in respect thereof has been made with the Company's Share Registrar Link Intime India Pvt. Ltd. - Kolkata, any objection should be made within one month from the date of announcement. Thereafter the Company will proceed for issue of duplicate certificate(s). The public is cautioned against dealing in any manner with these shares.

Folio No.: S02139 each
No. of Shares: 50 each

Share Certificate Nos.	Distinctive Nos.
212334	7061658 - 7061707
212335	7061708 - 7061757
212336	7061758 - 7061807
212337	7061808 - 7061857
212338	7061858 - 7061907
212339	7061908 - 7061957
212340	7061958 - 7062007

Place: Kolkata
Dated: January 30, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

Company Name: Phillips Carbon Black Limited.
Company Address: Duncan House, 3rd Floor 31, Netaji Subhas Road, Kolkata 700 001, West Bengal, (India)

Notice is hereby given that the following Share Certificate(s) No(s) standing in the name of Dipak Raj Sood have been lost and application for issue of duplicate certificate(s) in respect thereof has been made with the Company's Share Registrar Link Intime India Pvt. Ltd. - Kolkata, any objection should be made within one month from the date of announcement. Thereafter the Company will proceed for issue of duplicate certificate(s). The public is cautioned against dealing in any manner with these shares.

Folio No.: S02139 each
No. of Shares: 50 each

Share Certificate Nos.	Distinctive Nos.
212334	7061658 - 7061707
212335	7061708 - 7061757
212336	7061758 - 7061807
212337	7061808 - 7061857
212338	7061858 - 7061907
212339	7061908 - 7061957
212340	7061958 - 7062007

Place: Kolkata
Dated: January 30, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that my client Sh. Satya Narayan, is inclined to buy the residential Property/Plot no. J&K-66, Khuraj Khara, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 (admeasuring 60 sq. yards) from Smt. Savita Rani Gautam R/o Gular Road, Gali no.-1, Moti Masjid, Aligarh, Smt. Santosh Gautam R/o 19/185, Ram Vihar Colony, Aligarh, Smt. Usha Rani Gautam R/o D-24/1, Gali no.-1, Madhuban Mohalla, Delhi-53. All are the absolute owners of their respective shares in the said property/plot. Any person claiming an interest in the said property/plot or any part thereof by way of sale, gift, lease, inheritance, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, possession, easement, attachment or otherwise whatsoever are hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned within 15 days from the date hereof, failing which the said transaction will be completed, without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, shall be considered as waived.

SD/-
ANKIT JAIN (ADVOCATE) C-288, SURAJMAL VIHAR, NEW DELHI - 110092
DATE - 02/02/2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

Company Name: Orissa Sponge Iron and Steel Limited
Company Address: Chatterjee International Centre, 11th Floor, 33A, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata-700071

Notice is hereby given that the following Share Certificate(s) No(s) standing in the name of Kunal Sood have been lost and application for issue of duplicate certificate(s) in respect thereof has been made with the Company's Share Registrar Link Intime India Pvt. Ltd. - Kolkata, any objection should be made within one month from the date of announcement. Thereafter the Company will proceed for issue of duplicate certificate(s). The public is cautioned against dealing in any manner with these shares.

Folio No.: K00644 each

Share Certificate Nos.	Distinctive Nos.	No. of Shares
56875	5133801-850	50
34679	5392701-750	50
107159-60	8138751-850	100

Place: Kolkata
Dated: January 30, 2018

TENDERS

VIMAL CGHS, 3/sec- 12, Dwarka invites credentials from firms having completed structural repair works of value>2Cr. Please apply within 10 days

KERALA STATE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED PRINTING AND TRAINING
Head Office Complex, Vattiyorkavu, Thiruvananthapuram, Ph: 2356578, 23565415

e-TENDER NOTICE
No. Capt/764/18/MTL 31.1.18
e-Tenders (Tender No. 30917-18) are invited from the reputed paper dealers/suppliers/mills for the supply of 200 MT 60 gsm 66 cm reel paper through online vide e-tender id 18_CAPT_186627.1. Due date and time of tender/bid submission (online) 5.2.2018 upto 11.00 Hrs. For detailed information log on to the website: <https://tenders.kerala.gov.in> & www.captkerala.com
31.1.18 Sd/- MD- C-apt

KERALA STATE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED PRINTING AND TRAINING
Head Office Complex, Vattiyorkavu, Thiruvananthapuram, Ph: 2356578, 23565415

e-TENDER NOTICE
C-apt/800/17-18/OSG e-tenders (Tender No. 312/17-18) are invited from the leading printing presses to undertake printing and supply of BOOKS through online vide e-Tender id 2018_CAPT_186789.1. Due date & Time of tender / bid submission(online)06-02-2018 up to 02:00 PM. For detailed information log on to the website: <https://tenders.kerala.gov.in> & www.captkerala.com
1.2.18 Sd/- MD- C-apt

KERALA STATE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED PRINTING AND TRAINING
Head Office Complex, Vattiyorkavu, Thiruvananthapuram, Ph: 2356578, 23565415

e-TENDER NOTICE
C-apt/800/17-18/OSG e-tenders (Tender No. 313/17-18) are invited from the leading printing presses to undertake printing and supply of BOOKS through online vide e-Tender id 2018_CAPT_186786.1. Due date & Time of tender / bid submission(online)06-02-2018 up to 02:00 PM. For detailed information log on to the website: <https://tenders.kerala.gov.in> & www.captkerala.com
1.2.18 Sd/- MD- C-apt

LEGAL NOTICE

M.V.O.P. No. 711/2012
P. LAKSHMI DEVI, W/o. P. Venkatesh, Hindu, aged about 25 years, Tailor, residing at Papireddypalli, H/o. Vaddipalli, Obulavipalli Village & Mandal, Kadapa District, A.P.

Vs.

1) Satyavirsinh Munsiram Chaudhary, C/o. Subham Road Ways, aged not known but Major, (owner of the Lorry & Trailer bearing No.GJ5 Y 7527), residing at Gopal Park ONGS Rasta, Ichapore Hazira Road, Surat-395007, Gujarat State, (R-4)
2) Sali Singh, S/o. Chandrama Singh, aged about 42 years, Driver of Lorry and Trailer bearing No. GJ5-Y-7525, residing at Jarhali, Jalapur, Janpur District, Uttar Pradesh State, (R-6)
3) Stephen Nadas, Father's name not known, age not known, but Major, Owner of the Lorry and Trailer bearing No. MH06-AQ-5695, residing at D.No. 202, Jasmine, Pilot No. 10, Sect-6, Regency Garden Khargha, Nani Mumbai, Raigarh, Chimer, Maharashtra State-412120 (R-7).
4) S. Nagendra Kumar, S/o. Bankeswar Lal, aged about 45 years, Driver of Lorry and Trailer bearing No. MH06-AQ-5695, residing at Shantiga Road, Wadga Suleipur Road, Mumbai-Maharashtra State, (R-9)

... Respondents.

NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS No.4, 6, 7 & 9
Please take notice that the above M.V.O.P filed by the claimant for compensation against the respondents No.4, 6, 7 & 9 and others. The matter was stands posted for your appearance on 14-02-2018 on that day you must be appear before the above Hon'ble Court at 10:30 a.m., either in person or through your Advocate without fail, failing which the matter will be decided set exparte in your absence.

// By order of the Hon'ble court//
Sd/- B. GURAPPA, Advocate for Claimant, KADAPA, A.P.

SHORT TAKE



Big B to start filming for 'Jhund'

Amitabh Bachchan will start shooting for his upcoming project *Jhund*, from mid-February.

Amitabh wrote on his blog that the schedule for *Thugs Of Hindostan* will last till mid-February after which he would start shooting for Nagraj Manjule's film.

"Most of the day is spent in getting the spine and shoulder to be somewhat functional so that when work starts tomorrow and it starts at night till morning on *Thugs Of Hindostan*. There is some mobility for me to be able to perform," Big B wrote.

"So, this schedule lasts till mid-February and then on to the next film called *Jhund*... in Hindi, which for those language challenged, means a bunch of people," he added.

The cine icon, 75, said that the film is about a bunch of slum children.

"The people here are a bunch of slum kids who meet the guy who takes them from a life of misdeeds to one of responsible nature and character. A biography in a sense. It is the life of a living human who actually did this and it's in Pune from. Yeah, as I said, mid-February," he added. IANS

The serious side of Sanjai Mishra

Known for getting into the skin of characters, the actor talks about his rise from sidelines to centre-stage

ATIF KHAN

"My brother is ill and I was worried about it. I have just wrapped up a shoot so I thought of spending time with my family," says Sanjai Mishra as he settles for a conversation at his residence in Vaishali, Ghaziabad. The unsung hero of many blockbusters is finally getting his due with meaty roles being offered to him. "I have worked in some good films and now there is a responsibility to perform better," says Mishra as he sips his tea. With a spark in his eyes, the actor is capable of bringing credibility to whatever role he plays. And playing a protagonist, he says, is like winning a game. "Tell me one actor who is not a character," he questions the labelling of actors in Hindi film industry. "A lot of time has gone into making people aware that I am more than just a character artist. I want to do work that will define me. I have gone through every kind of highs and lows; I know life better and it helps in my performances," reflects 54-year-old actor. "Though I hate the tag of being underrated, still I fear to be overrated, as there will not be any challenges for me then, and I do not want that."

Mishra loves imbuing his characters with eccentricities. "Q. Q. Qureshi from *Bunty Aur Babli* pushed me to a level where I shared the screen with a star like Rani Mukerji. After that I did a series of characters which became popular with people. People still don't know me by my name. They call me by the name of my characters like Babli Bhai from *Golmaal*. That is a positive sign." He asserts that blurring of the rigid divide character actors and a convention-



Sanjai Mishra says his stardom lies in his ability to connect with the common man ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

al protagonist is a healthy change for the industry. "We never took out time to know about the lives of so-called character actors like Kader Khan, Asrani, Tinu Anand and many others as we were too much obsessed with stars. In that way, we have not celebrated cinema as we should have," remarks the actor who has recently wrapped up Hardik Mehta's *Kamyaab*.

For him, the credit goes to new stories and story tellers that are changing the industry. "In a film like *Talvar*, where you have a real-life situation, you cannot have superstars. The makers have to look for faces which you watch in your daily life," analyses Mishra.

Surely, he is now an important cog in his films, as he proved as an old Heddu in *Kadvi Hawa* and as a lecherous Vice Chancellor in

Anaarkali of Aarah but it is the truth seeking character of *Aankhon Dekhi* that remains closest to him. He has a story to share to about the film. "I started belonging to a school of thought which does films for earning as I never thought of myself as someone who can act in such intelligent films. Those who make such films do not respect masala films. But there are people like Rajat Kapoor who are observing you amidst all this. When I was shooting for *Phas Gaye Re Obama* with him, he told me 'tumhare liye kuchh likh rahoon' (I am writing something for you). I was awestruck. After ten days, he still had the same idea with him. I realised that he is serious," relates Mishra.

It was surprising for him for by then Mishra had become used to "bechare ko dekho" kind of res-

ponse from his peers as he was not getting the desired response for his small but eye-catching performances. "It was a line I used to hear many times, which actually worked in favour of me, as I used to motivate myself through that. When I came to Mumbai, television industry was flourishing which helped me financially. I had a diary which Raj Babbar gave me. It had addresses of all the production houses and I used to roam without thinking much."

Birth of a character

His powerful portrayal of Everyman has won over audiences across the spectrum. He knows a large section of audience can identify with him. "It gives me comfort because I am a normal person with normal sensibilities, problems and pressures. I don't have

to make an effort to look normal on screen," chuckles Mishra.

His training in theatre helps him in maintaining the equanimity and filling different shades in this common man. "I did not start acting by doing it but I learnt it by watching my Drama school seniors such as Pankaj Kapur, Piyush Mishra, Tigmanshu Dhulia and Irfan Khan. When I perform, I get the reaction instantly from the production crew, which is my small audience," reflects the National School of Drama alumnus. He insists that a film takes shape when the director communicates his vision to the actor. "I do not usually read my scripts as I rely on the director's vision. If a director is able to show what he has in his mind, a large part of actor's work is done. Then it is up to the actor's craft as to how he executes it with

his techniques. When both actor and director are on the same page, they become collaborators in the birth of a film."

When he was growing up, he preferred cinema over any other creative forms. "I used to have a Canon A1 still camera with which I used to click a lot. I still remember watching Sai Paranjpye's *Sparsh*, Satyajit Ray's *Pather Panchali* and Ustad Vilayat Khan's music was very dear to me as my father was fond of classics," recalls Mishra. "I was very much aware of the visual language which helped me in acting. I always discuss colours, lens, mise-en-scene and lighting with camerapersons."

Sense of humour

For every other film, he has developed a certain new way to entertain people as humour comes naturally to him. He has the ability to laugh on himself and perhaps that reflects in the quirkiness of characters that he plays. Though it has given him recognition, Mishra is against any sort of typecasting. "These roles came to me by chance and there was no effort from my side. Humour is something you can relate to because it goes with the stereotypes and biases that you carry or watch around you. You cannot create it, you can only pick it by experience. And one can find it in every situation, even death. I am not happy with the present trend of artificial gag-based humour as it does not live for long," laments Mishra.

With fame came advisors. "I do not know when I became Sanjay sir from Sanju. Many people asked me to hire a PR agency. I knew I am not a hero material but I did not know what I could do with this face. I am happy now with what I have." He wants to remain a regular guy, connected with the grassroots. "I can travel by train, meet anyone on the road and go wherever I can. This is my stardom. I am like this and I want to die like this. I always watch myself from a third angle, and introspect," Mishra trails off like my of his endearing characters.

TO ADVERTISE
PLEASE CONTACT
Mr S.Natarajan
Ph: 011-43579797
natarajan.sivaramkrishnan
@thehindu.co.in
THE HINDU

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No.V, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Near Parvathan Complex, Saidulajab New Delhi 110030 invites on behalf of President of India, on line percentage rate tender from approved and eligible contractors registered with Irrigation and Flood Control Department up to 3.00 P.M on 05-02-2018.

- NIT 72/2017-18/EE-V/ACS/ID No. 2018_IFC_144301_1 (Percentage rate)
H.O.A. - 2217 MLALAD Fund.
N.O.W: Repair and Renovation of Purani chaurai at village Shahpur Jat in Greater Kailash Constituency AC-50.
E.C. Rs. 15,88,078/- Earnest Money Rs. 31,762/- Period of Completion. 90 Days. (Date of Opening 05.02.2018).
- NIT 73/2017-18/EE-V/ACS/ID No. 2018_IFC_144305_1 (Percentage rate)
H.O.A. - 2217 MLALAD Fund.
N.O.W: Development of link road of Gali No. D-1 and D-3 Mangal Bazar to Rattia Marg Sangam Vihar New Delhi.
E.C. Rs. 99,22,330/- Earnest Money Rs. 1,98,447/- Period of Completion. 60 Days. (Date of opening 05-02-2018).
- NIT 75/2017-18/EE-V/ACS/ID No. 2018_IFC_144308_1 (Percentage rate)
H.O.A. - 2217 MLALAD Fund.
N.O.W: Construction of hall at second floor and Toilet block both at First floor and second floor at Katwaria Sarai chaurai in Mehrauli Constituency Bk-1.
E.C. Rs. 40,66,765/- Earnest Money Rs. 81,335/- Period of Completion. 180 Days. (Date of opening 05-02-2018).

Note:-

- The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case of last date of opening of tender is extended the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.
- Earnest Money in physical form i.e. deposited at FDR/Banker Cheque/ Demand Draft of schedule bank issue in favour of EE CD V I&FC Deptt. should be deposited in the office of EE CD V I&FC Deptt. Govt. of NCT of Delhi Saidulajab near Parvathan complex New Delhi 30. On or before the last date and time.
- Details of above mentioned work can be seen and downloaded from website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
- Tender submitted through e-procurement portal shall be accepted only.
- Corrigendum, if any will be published on e-procurement web site only.

Executive Engineer
Civil Division No.-V (I & F.C.)
Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi
DIP/Shabdarth/3202/17-18

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY OPEN TENDER ON LINE (E-TENDERING)

The Dy. Chief Engineer (BRL), E.C. Railway Hajipur is inviting online (E-Tendering) Open Tender for and on behalf of the President of India from reputed contractor with experience, financial capability including those registered/working with Railway/Irrigation/CPWD/MES or any other public sector undertaking for the following work:-

Tender Notice No. BRL/DNR/EO/18/02 dtd. 29.01.2018. Tender No. BRL/DNR/EO/18/02. Sl. No. 1. Name of the work with its location: Open E-Tender for Periodical Painting of bridge girder of bridge no 7 DB of 121 M clear span, shore span 01 to 04 (clear span 30.3M) & 01 to 06 viaduct (clear span 18.3M) under D.Y. CE/BRL/HUP of Danapur division. 2. Approx. cost of work (₹): 1,51,16,184.82 3. Earnest Money to be deposited (₹): 2,25,580.00 4. Tender Document Cost (₹): 5,000.00 5. Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of Tender: The tender have to be submitted online on www.irps.gov.in upto 12.00 hrs. on the date of opening i.e. 12-3-2018 and will be opened on the same day after 12.00 hrs. 6. Website particulars. Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender can be purchased etc. 1. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website: <http://www.irps.gov.in> & full details of notice can be seen on notice board. All corrigendum will be uploaded on website if required.

Dy. Chief Engineer (BRL),
E.C. Railway, Hajipur
PR/643HQ/ENG/OT/17-18

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY (Construction Organization) (TWO PACKET TENDER) TENDER NOTICE NO. CON/2018/JAN/13

Open tender through e-Tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed contractors for the following works: 1. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/01. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 2. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/02. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 3. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/03. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 4. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/04. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 5. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/05. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 6. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/06. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 7. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/07. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 8. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/08. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 9. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/09. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 10. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/10. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 11. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/11. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 12. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/12. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 13. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/13. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 14. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/14. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 15. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/15. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 16. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/16. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 17. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/17. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 18. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/18. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 19. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/19. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 20. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/20. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 21. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/21. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 22. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/22. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 23. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/23. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 24. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/24. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 25. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/25. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 26. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/26. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 27. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/27. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 28. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/28. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 29. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/29. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 30. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/30. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 31. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/31. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 32. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/32. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 33. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/33. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 34. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/34. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 35. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/35. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 36. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/36. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 37. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/37. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 38. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/38. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 39. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/39. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 40. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/40. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 41. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/41. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 42. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/42. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 43. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/43. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 44. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/44. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 45. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/45. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 46. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/46. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 47. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/47. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 48. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/48. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 49. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/49. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 50. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/50. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 51. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/51. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 52. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/52. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 53. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/53. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 54. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/54. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 55. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/55. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 56. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/56. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 57. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/57. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 58. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/58. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 59. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/59. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 60. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/60. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 61. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/61. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 62. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/62. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 63. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/63. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 64. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/64. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 65. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/65. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 66. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/66. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 67. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/67. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 68. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/68. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 69. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/69. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 70. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/70. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 71. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/71. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 72. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/72. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 73. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/73. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 74. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/74. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 75. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/75. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 76. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/76. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 77. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/77. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 78. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/78. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 79. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/79. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 80. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/80. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 81. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/81. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 82. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/82. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 83. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/83. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 84. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/84. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 85. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/85. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 86. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/86. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 87. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/87. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 88. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/88. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 89. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/89. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 90. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/90. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 91. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/91. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 92. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/92. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 93. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/93. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 94. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/94. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 95. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/95. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 96. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/96. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 97. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/97. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 98. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/98. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 99. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/99. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 100. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/100. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 101. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/101. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 102. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/102. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 103. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/103. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 104. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/104. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 105. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/105. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 106. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/106. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 107. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/107. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 108. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/108. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 109. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/109. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 110. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/110. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 111. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/111. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 112. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/112. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 113. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/113. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 114. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/114. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 115. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/115. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 116. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/116. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 117. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/117. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 118. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/118. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 119. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/119. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 120. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/120. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 121. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/121. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 122. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/122. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 123. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/123. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 124. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/124. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 125. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/125. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 126. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/126. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 127. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/127. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 128. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/128. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 129. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/129. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 130. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/130. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 131. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/131. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 132. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/132. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 133. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/133. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 134. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/134. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 135. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/135. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 136. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/136. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 137. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/137. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 138. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/138. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 139. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/139. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 140. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/140. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 141. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/141. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 142. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T/2018/142. Name of work: Final location survey using Digital Total Station (DTS) and GPS (Global Positioning System) for alignment of proposed railway line. 143. TENDER NO.: CE/CONM-T

IN BRIEF



ED files chargesheet against Virbhadra, wife

NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday filed a supplementary charge sheet against former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh and wife Pratibha Singh in a money laundering case. The case is an offshoot of the disproportionate assets case filed against the two.

Infant's severed head found on rooftop

HYDERABAD
The severed head of an unidentified infant was found on the terrace of a house at Chilka Nagar in Uppal on Thursday. Police have sent the head for autopsy. They believe the baby must be two or three months old. Police are looking into the human sacrifice angle in view of the lunar eclipse that occurred on Wednesday.

No violation in releasing Sanjay: Mumbai HC

MUMBAI
The Bombay High Court on Thursday said that there had been no violation in releasing actor Sanjay Dutt from Yerwada Jail, after being convicted for his role in the 1993 bomb blasts case. A PIL petition stated that the remission granted to Mr. Dutt was "wrong and illegal".

11 goats allegedly killed by leopard in Odisha

BERHAMPUR
Eleven goats were allegedly killed and around 15 injured by a leopard, near Athagadapatna village in Ganjam district of Odisha. Villagers allege that a leopard had attacked the goats on Wednesday while the animals were grazing inside the Nageswar forest. Forest officials have taken the allegation seriously as in the past a leopard had been spotted in the area.

Advantage Assam



A young woman takes a selfie under umbrellas put up as a part of a beautification drive for the coming Advantage Assam, a global investors' summit, in Guwahati on Thursday. •PTI

Saseendran returns as Minister

He was cleared of sexual misconduct charge by CJM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader A.K. Saseendran was sworn in as Minister in the Pinarayi Vijayan Cabinet on Thursday evening. At a simple and brief function held at the Raj Bhavan here, Kerala Governor P. Sathasivam administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Saseendran.

Mr. Saseendran, who was holding the Transport portfolio, resigned from the Cabinet on March 26 last year following the broadcast of a sexually explicit conversation that he allegedly had with a woman journalist. He has returned to the Cabinet after being cleared of the charge by the Chief Judicial



Magistrate, Thiruvananthapuram. NCP president Sharad Pawar had cleared the State unit's proposal to renominate Mr. Saseendran to the LDF Ministry. Speaking to mediapersons, Mr. Saseendran said his priority would be to solve the vexed issues facing

the transport sector of the State and to pay salaries and pension of the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation staff and pensioners.

HC notice to govt.

The Kerala High Court on Thursday issued notice to the State government on a petition questioning the Thiruvananthapuram Chief Judicial Magistrate Court verdict discharging Mr. Saseendran from the case relating to outraging the modesty of a woman journalist and engaging her in lewd conversations. The court directed the State government to file a statement in response to the allegation raised in the petitions. (With inputs from Kochi)

Chargesheet filed against Dera chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The CBI on Thursday filed the first chargesheet against Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh and two doctors for alleged castration of his followers at Sirsa.

The Dera chief is serving a 20-year jail term after his conviction in two rape cases.

The doctors arraigned in the case are M.P. Singh, a resident of Delhi's Mayur Vihar, and Pankaj Garg, from Panchkula in Haryana.

They have been accused of castrating Ram Rahim's followers at his instance.

Govt. against death penalty for child rape

Petitioner moves SC after assault on 8-month-old in Delhi

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday expressed its objection to award the death penalty to child abusers, rapists and paedophiles, saying "death penalty is not an answer for everything."

Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, Additional Solicitor General P.S. Narasimha, for the government, said the POCSO Act classifies child abuse into sexual harassment, sexual assault and aggravated sexual assault.

The law provides for varying levels of punishment for each crime against children. For child harassment, it is imprisonment of up to three years, five years' imprisonment for sexual assault and 10 years to life imprisonment for aggravated sexual assault.

The government was responding to a submission by PIL petitioner in person, advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava, to change the punishment for a child rapist to death penalty.

The case concerns the "brutal" sexual assault of an eight-month-old child in the



A file photo of an activist protesting against rape in New Delhi. •AFP

National Capital, who, under the orders of the Supreme Court on January 31, was shifted to AIIMS for intensive care.

POCSO cases

The court responded by initiating a review of the pendency of cases currently under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. It asked the petitioner to provide details of pendency of POCSO cases by March 12.

It decided to look into the larger issue of disposal of POCSO cases within a prescribed deadline and strict punishment. The POCSO Act calls for the setting up of special courts to fast-track

trial in cases of child assault.

The hearing came 24 hours after a deeply concerned Supreme Court, in an urgent hearing, directed a team of two specialists to rush to the eight-month-old admitted to a private hospital with a special ambulance to transport her to premier AIIMS to provide her special care.

The government informed the Bench on Thursday that her parents had been given an interim compensation of ₹75,000. On Wednesday, both the government and the Supreme Court expressed their concern for the child.

Forced to walk, woman gives birth to baby

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BETUL

In a tragic incident, a 25-year-old woman gave birth to a baby when she was forced to walk down the corridors of the government district hospital here: the infant died after falling to the floor.


The woman allegedly did not get a stretcher even when she expressed her inability to walk.

Civil Surgeon of Betul District Hospital A.K. Baranga said that Neelu Verma, resident of Ghodadongri, was brought to the Betul hospital after she started having labour pains. Dr. Baranga admitted that there was a major lapse on the part of the staff. "Not providing a stretcher and forcing her to walk despite the fact that she was in labour is a serious case of carelessness," he

said. An inquiry would be held and action would be taken against erring employees, Dr. Baranga said.

The exact cause of the infant's death would be known after autopsy, he said.

Vikas Verma, the woman's husband, said no doctor was present at the primary health centre in Ghodadongri due to a government holiday, so they had to rush to Betul.



VISION IAS
INSPIRING INNOVATION

LIVE/ONLINE Classes also Available
www.visionias.in

"You are as strong as your Foundation"

FOUNDATION COURSE

GENERAL STUDIES

PRELIM cum MAINS 2019

10th April | 1 PM

- Includes comprehensive coverage of all the major topics for GS Prelims & GS Mains Respectively
- Access to LIVE as well as Recorded Classes on your personal online student platform

FOUNDATION COURSE @
JAIPUR | HYDERABAD | PUNE | AHMEDABAD | 15th May

INTERVIEW ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Starts: 15th Jan

- DAF Analysis Session with Senior Faculty Members of Vision IAS
- Mock Interviews Sessions with Ex-Bureaucrats/Educationists
- Performance Evaluations and Feedback
- Interactive Sessions with previous year toppers and bureaucrats

2nd Floor, Apsara Arcade, Near Metro Gate 6, 1/8 B, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh
DELHI • 635, Opp. Signature View Apartments, Banda Bahadur Marg, Mukherjee Nagar
• Contact : 8468022022, 9650617807, 9717162595

फाउंडेशन कोर्स

सामान्य अध्ययन

DELHI 17 Apr | 1 PM | **JAIPUR** 15 May

हिन्दी माध्यम में

इनोवेटिव क्लासरूम प्रोग्राम के घटक

- प्रारंभिक, मुख्य परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक का विस्तृत कवरेज
- एनीमेशन, पॉवर प्वाइंट, वीडियो जैसी तकनीकी सुविधाओं का प्रयोग
- मौलिक अवधारणाओं की समझ के विकास एवं विश्लेषणात्मक क्षमता निर्माण पर विशेष ध्यान
- अंतर - विषयक समझ विकसित करने का प्रयास
- योजनाबद्ध तैयारी हेतु करेंट ओरिएंटेड अप्रोच
- नियमित क्लास टेस्ट एवं व्यक्तिगत मूल्यांकन
- कॉम्प्रिहेंसिव स्टडी मटेरियल
- निबंध लेखन - शैली की कक्षाएं
- करेंट अफेयर्स मैगजीन
- PT 365 कक्षाएं
- Mains 365 कक्षाएं
- मुख्य परीक्षा टेस्ट सीरीज
- निबंध टेस्ट सीरीज
- PT टेस्ट सीरीज
- सीसैट टेस्ट सीरीज

ALL INDIA MAINS TEST SERIES
» General Studies » Essay

ALL INDIA PRELIMS TEST SERIES

SELECTIONS IN CSE 2016

AIR 2 ANMOL SHER SINGH BEDI
AIR 4 SAUMYA PANDEY
AIR 5 ABHILASH MISHRA
AIR 7 ANAND VARDHAN
AIR 8 SHWETA CHAUHAN
You can be next

15 IN TOP 20 | 70+ SELECTIONS IN TOP 100

PHILOSOPHY
by Anoop Kumar Singh
@ **PUNE** 6th Nov

» Includes comprehensive and updated study material
» Answer Writing Program for Philosophy (QIP)

Scan the **QR CODE** to download **VISION IAS app**

GET IT ON **Google Play**

/visionias.upsc
/c/VisionIASdelhi

FROM PAGE ONE

Congress sweeps Rajasthan bypolls

The bypolls were necessitated after the death of Alwar MP Mahant Chand Nath, Ajmer MP Sanwar Lal Jat and Mandalgarh MLA Kirti Kumari last year.

Soon after the triumph, Mr. Pilot demanded Chief Minister Raje's resignation on moral grounds. "The people have saved democracy by rejecting the BJP's policy of caste polarisation. Besides proving people's faith in the Congress, this mandate is also against the Centre's demonetisation, GST implementation and economic slowdown," Mr. Pilot said at a press conference here.

Ms. Raje said, "I congratulate the winning candidates and welcome them to this celebration of democracy."

Better in Bengal

In contrast to the drubbing in the west, the BJP found solace in the east where it considerably increased its vote share. While TMC's Uluberia candidate Sajda Ahmed won by a margin of 4.74 lakh votes, BJP candidate Anupam Mallik came second with 2.93 lakh votes and Left Front-supported CPI(M) candidate Sabiruddin Molla managed only 1.38 lakh votes

CJI brings out a roster to allot cases

The publication of such a roster is a first in the history of the court. The move follows a decision of a Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice Misra declaring the Chief Justice of India's dominance as the master of the roster in order to protect the Supreme Court from "anarchy". The five-judge Bench, on November 10 last year, proclaimed it was the Chief Justice's sole prerogative to decide what case has to be heard by which judge.

The new roster shows that CJI has kept the PIL jurisdiction entirely to the Bench he is presiding over.

Cases on medical and engineering college admissions/transfer cases, allocation of 15% all-India quota in medical admissions/transfers and establishment and recognition of educational institutions would be heard by Justice Arun Mishra's Bench.

Justice S.A. Bobde, the seventh senior-most judge and in line to be the Chief Justice of India, gets a share of cases on medical/engineering admissions and transfer. Justice Rohinton Nariman's Bench has also been given cases of establishment and recognition of education institutions.

The rosters of the four senior-most judges who called the joint press conference largely remain the same.

Justice Chelameswar includes labour, matters pertaining to judicial officers, simple money and mortgage cases, land acquisition, consumer protection, criminal cases, among others. Justice Gogoi has been allocated labour cases, company law, contempt of court, personal law, criminal matters, among others. Justice Lokur would continue to hear ecological matters and social justice cases.

Govt. still relying on fancy schemes, says Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi said the Modi government, even after four years in office, was still promising fancy schemes and fair prices to farmers.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told a meeting of Opposition parties that issues such as unemployment, farm distress and education were so serious that it merited a separate discussion in Parliament.

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram described the budget as "defeatist" and a "let down" for failing to undertake bold reforms.

"4 years gone; still promising FARMERS a fair price. 4 years gone; FANCY

SCHEMES, with NO matching budgets. 4 years gone; no JOBS for our YOUTH. Thankfully, only 1 more year to go. #Budget2018," is how Mr. Gandhi reacted on Twitter.

Mr. Chidambaram said the government had "run out of ideas" to address key challenges such as job creation, agriculture revival, improving exports and investments and managing fiscal consolidation. "It is a defeatist Budget. I think they have thrown in the towel. It is a budget of a government which has conceded that it has failed to address key issues in the economy," Mr. Chidambaram said at the Congress press conference.

He said the government's announcement of a health protection scheme was a

TDP terms Budget 'deeply disappointing'

Minister's remark reflects strain in ties

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Science and Technology and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Y.S. Chowdary on Thursday termed the 2018-19 Union Budget "deeply disappointing."

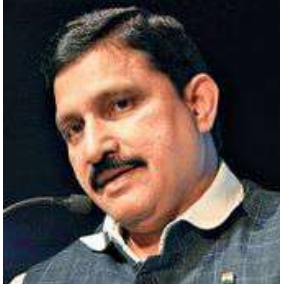
The Minister's comment comes days after TDP president and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said last week: "We are maintaining 'Mitra Dharma' with BJP but if it does not want to continue with the alliance, we will go on our own."

"We are definitely not happy. It is a deeply disappointing Budget. They have not even completed commitments they made in the AP Reorganisation Act. We were expecting a railway zone, additional funds for metro and delimitation and

so on," Mr. Chowdary told *The Hindu*.

However, Mr. Chowdary made it clear that they were not yet ready to break the alliance. "We have to resolve the issues by deliberation and discussions and not by quitting the debate," he said.

The TDP Parliamentary Party is scheduled to meet on Sunday to discuss issues including voters' feedback on alliance with the BJP.



Centre reads ground signals from Gujarat

Rural focus in Union Budget comes ahead of Assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

When the BJP failed to make it to triple figures in the Gujarat Assembly polls held recently, a senior Minister involved in the elections had termed it an effect of "ka-paas" (cotton) rather than PAAS (Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti).

The message, he said, was very clear – it was rural distress and lack of remunerative prices for farm produce that had seen the opposition Congress sweep the countryside, while the BJP squeaked past the winning post on the back of urban voters.

With elections due at the end of the year in BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and two of these States having seen very aggressive farmers' agitation on remunerative prices, it was obvious that the Budget would have a rural, agriculture focus.

The Budget for 2018-19 appeared to be addressing that



Finance Minister Arun Jaitley along with his Cabinet colleagues and officials, leaving North Block in New Delhi on Thursday to present the Budget. ■ V. SUDERSHAN

political gap. The other political takeaway was the long term programme of the BJP to move away from being an upper caste, upper class party to usurping what till now

was termed the Congress and socialist parties' vote bank of the rural and urban poor.

The announcement of a health insurance scheme for

10 crore households of up to ₹5 lakh has the capacity to spawn a huge narrative of inclusion from a government taking forward from programmes such as the subsi-

dised LPG scheme and Ujjwala.

Health scheme

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said in his speech that the health insurance scheme could be universalised in future – another very powerful idea in a country where health costs are prohibitive and attacks on doctors and hospitals for huge bills increasingly common.

The cut in corporate tax rates for small and medium enterprises to 25%, covering all but 7,000 businesses in the country is the third aspect of this narrative. Not quite the "pakoda seller" but the small scale entrepreneur, who has a great capacity to create jobs, is being given a tax break. In this pro-poor, pro-farmer, pro-small enterprise narrative an interesting highlight is the restitution of long term capital gains tax. The government and the ruling party appears keen to project that not only does it

care for the farmers and the poor, it is also not shy of taxing the rich, especially on its speculative income on the bourses.

"This was the year to bell the long-term capital gains tax issue," said a senior Minister. "It cannot be that the salaried classes be taxed and rich people investing in the market are not taxed on their profits," he said.

It is however, with regard to the salaried middle class that some of the narrative could come unglued. The standard deduction of ₹40,000 on travel and health expenses haven't quite masked the disappointment of no major changes in the personal income tax slabs. No answers could be found on whether there would be early general elections in this budget.

"With a fiscal deficit target upwardly revised by only 30 basis point, to be 3.3% this is hardly a re-election budget," said a senior Minister.

It's people-friendly, says Modi

'It focusses on the needs of rural areas and pays attention to all sectors'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the Union Budget 2018-19 as farmer-friendly, common citizen-friendly and development-friendly.

He said it focussed on the needs of rural areas and paid attention to all sectors, from agriculture to infrastructure.

"It will give pace to the development of the country...the government is focussed not just on 'ease of doing business' but also on 'ease of living'," he said.

Speaking about Ayushman Bharat Yojana, aimed at giving the poor up to ₹5 lakh



a year for treatment, he said: "The scheme is a path-breaking initiative to provide quality and affordable health care. It will benefit approxi-

mately 50 crore Indians. The scale of this scheme is unparalleled and it will bring a paradigm shift in our health sector."

Ensuring quality care

"It will help them get rid of the worry of incurring cost to get quality treatment. It will help 10 crore families (45-50 crore people)," he said. This would be the biggest government-funded health care scheme in the world.

Mr. Modi said his government would soon announce measures to address non-performing assets and the

'stress account' issues of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector. "For a long time, MSMEs faced a lot of burden on the tax front. In this Budget, we have also reduced the corporate taxes that MSMEs owe. Now, they have to pay only 25% tax instead of 30%," he said.

"This Budget strengthens the hopes of 1.25 crore Indians... Our farmers have produced record [amounts of] grains and vegetables. To strengthen farmers further, we have taken several important steps," he said.

(With inputs from PTI)

Jaitley gets an attentive House; Rahul takes notes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi walked up to congratulate Finance Minister Arun Jaitley soon after he concluded his nearly two-hour budget speech in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Mr. Jaitley was the man of the moment as several of his Cabinet colleagues came to congratulate him.

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha – both believed to be part of the Modi government's economic team – trooped in for an impromptu analysis.

Opposition members did not bother with such pleasantries. But the suspended Biju Janata Dal member Baijayant Panda walked over to



Budget papers. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

speak to the Finance Minister and shook hands with the Prime Minister.

There were interesting sidelights even when Mr. Jaitley was delivering his speech. Congress president Rahul Gandhi was seen breaking into short conversations with his colleagues Jyotiraditya Scindia and Kamal Nath. But when Mr. Jait-

ley started talking about his tax proposal, he was seen taking notes. Opposition members were quite disciplined, except when the Finance Minister said the government would give farmers the minimum support price more than one-and-a-half times the input cost. All Opposition members stood up to protest this statement.

Shatrughan Sinha of the BJP, seated in the fourth row of the middle column, was using sign language to talk to his party colleague Hema Malini. As Sangeeta Jaitley, wife of the Finance Minister, watched him spell out his plans from the visitors' gallery, BJP MP from Assam R.P. Sharma was vying for attention with slogans like *Jai Ho!*

RSS affiliate to protest against Budget

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Calling the Budget "labour-unfriendly," RSS-affiliated labour organisation Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) is planning to organise a countrywide protest against it.

In a statement, the BMS said though the Budget had given more thrust to rural development, agriculture, health and infrastructure, it had "totally neglected the woes of labourers."

"Middle class employees are unhappy with no in-

crease in their ceiling for tax exemption; at the same time, the cess on income tax is increased from 3% to 4%," the statement said.

The organisation also criticised the disinvestment plan announced by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

"There is no provision for revival of viable sick public sector units. Instead, the government is focussing its attention on strategic sale of 24 PSUs," BMS general secretary Virjesh Upadhyay said.

Jaitley gives MPs a salary raise

Move to ensure revision every 5 years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union government finally moved to end the practice of Members of Parliament arrogating salary rises to themselves with Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in his budget proposing a law to standardise the salary and provide for an automatic revision every five years by indexing it to inflation.

The salaries of the President of India and the Vice-President have been increased to ₹5 lakh and ₹4 lakh a month respectively so as to rectify an anomaly. The Governors, too, will get a rise in their salaries that were last revised in 2006.

Mr. Jaitley said there had been considerable public debate on the emoluments paid to MPs, and the practice allowing them to fix



basic salary of ₹1 lakh.

their own emoluments ran into criticism. "I am, therefore, proposing necessary changes to refix the salary, constituency allowance, office expenses and meeting allowance payable to MPs with effect from April 1, 2018," he said.

Accordingly, MPs will now draw a basic salary of ₹1,00,000 (up from ₹50,000). The constituency allowance will go up from ₹45,000 to ₹70,000, and the secretarial costs from ₹45,000 to ₹60,000.

Nepal gets a high ₹650 crore outlay

But Bhutan continues to be the largest recipient of the External Affairs Ministry's allocation

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI
India's annual financial allocation to Nepal for 2018-19 has nearly doubled under the Union Budget presented on Thursday.

The External Affairs Ministry has been allocated a total ₹15,011 crore, which indicates a marginal increase of ₹1,321 crore over the previous year's grant. For India's development and diplomatic engagement under the 'Neighbourhood First' policy, the Budget has allocated ₹5545 crore. Bhutan is traditionally the largest recipient of Ministry's allocation.

It has maintained the same position even as the allocation increased by ₹71 crore to touch ₹2,650 crore.

More for Myanmar
However, the giant leap in allocation was for Nepal, which received ₹650 crore

from the Ministry. This year's allocation is the third consecutive and the largest increase. In 2016-17, Nepal received ₹332.72 crore, which was increased to ₹375 crore last year. At ₹280 crore, Myanmar's allocation too has improved from ₹220 crore of last year.

Rehabilitation work
Former Indian Ambassador to Nepal Ranjit Rae said the budgetary increase was a likely step ahead from the Indian commitment to help Nepal recover from the 2015 earthquake. "The budgetary increase indicates it is likely to cover the earthquake reconstruction fund that was in the pipeline for some time and was discussed with the Nepalese leaders," Mr. Rae said. A senior researcher from the Ministry's think tank, Research and Information Sys-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Pashupatinath temple in Kathmandu. ■FILE PHOTO

tem for Developing Countries (RIS), said on condition of anonymity that the Terai road network and railway

connectivity plans were also likely to get a part of the increased allocation. Large allocation has also

been made for the prominent cultural arm of the Ministry, the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), which has received an increased allocation of ₹20 crore to touch a total ₹255 crore.

Funds for varsities
However, the new initiatives for building infrastructure in Chabhar and the Seychelles have also been granted allocations of ₹150 crore and ₹350 crore respectively. South Asia University, a major educational initiative for the South Asian region, has received ₹375 crore and the Nalanda University got ₹200 crore. Indicating the evolving policies of the government, the Ministry has made no allocation for the Haj.

The government had allocated ₹12.13 crore in 2016-17. There was no allocation for Haj last year too.

Budget is 'jumlanomics', says Yechury

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury called the Union Budget a classic case of "jumlanomics" and alleged that it had been dressed up as a "pro-people" budget. "The budget actually contracts governmental expenditure, it means reduction in governmental expenditure, which means greater unemployment and greater misery for vast majority of working people," Mr. Yechury said.

He also panned the health insurance scheme. Mr. Yechury added that while the government tom-tommed it as a pro-farmer budget, the farmers have got no relief. The minimum support price is only for the upcoming Kharif crop, he said.

SC raps Aadhaar petitioners

As judges, we are only answerable to our conscience, says Justice Chandrachud

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud on Thursday sharply responded to a submission by petitioners challenging the Aadhaar scheme that unless the judges agreed to their point of view they risk being branded "Aadhaar judges" 25 years down the line.

"If that is the impression, so be it; I would better like to be known as a nationalist judge ... What is this way of saying that either you are with me or you will be branded as Aadhaar judge? We, as judges, are only answerable to our conscience and not anyone here," Justice Chandrachud orally retorted at senior advocate Shyam Divan, arguing for the petitioners.

Justice Chandrachud, who authored the majority judgment for the nine-judge Con-



stitution Bench which upheld privacy as a fundamental right, criticised Mr. Divan for indulging in "hyperbole" in his submissions.

World Bank debunked
The face-off came shortly after Mr. Divan, in his submissions, countered Justice Chandrachud's remarks about reports showing that the World Bank has endorsed the Aadhaar project.

Mr. Divan, seconded by advocate Vipin Nair, responded by dismissing as "completely without basis and demonstrably incorrect" the Centre's claims that the World Bank has estimated a saving of \$11 billion per annum and that an agency like World Bank is independent and would not engage in puffery.

Mr. Divan had earlier referred to the Aadhaar project as a "giant electronic leash" which reduced individuals to mere numbers. He had portrayed the spread of Aadhaar use as a way to a "totalitarian State". "You can't argue your case on hyperbole. That's not the way to argue a constitutional case," Justice Chandrachud addressed the petitioners' lawyer.

He made his displeasure clear about the tone, attitude

and tenor in which the petitioners have been addressing the Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra. "The moment, we ask questions, we are attacked as if we are committed to an ideology or anyone. If that is so, I plead guilty to the charge. We are not here defending the government nor are we going to follow any NGO line," Justice Chandrachud said. In the day-long hearing, senior advocate Kapil Sibal intervened to remark that the government through Aadhaar was imposing a "one nation one identity" norm on free citizens. But Justice A.K. Sikri said the problem was the population of the country and a certain lack of integrity leading to duplication of identity records and fraud.

Centre puts e-way bill on hold

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday deferred the implementation of the e-way bill system because of the "technological glitches" faced by the businesses and the transporter community on the first day of the rollout.

"In view of the difficulties faced by trade in generating e-way bill due to initial technological glitches, it has been decided to extend the trial phase for generation of e-way bill, both for inter- and intra-State movement of goods," the Central Board of Excise and Customs tweeted.

However, the government did not clarify how long the trial will last. "It'll be applicable from a date to be notified," it said.

"The portal has been down since 12 noon. e-way bill has much wider implication and applicability in the whole business ecosystem, therefore its stability is important to ensure compliance," Archit Gupta, founder and CEO, Clear-Tax, told *The Hindu*.

Under the GST regime, all consignments worth over ₹50,000 moving over 10 km from their origin will require prior registration and generation of an e-way bill through the GST network. The system is aimed at helping authorities keep track of all taxable goods and detect potential tax evasion.

Pratik Jain, Partner & Leader, Indirect Tax-PwC India said: "This is precisely what industry was concerned about. It is good that the government has been quick to defer it."

The government had set a 15-day window for trials.

Collegium reveals its CJ choices

Acting Chief Justices of Calcutta and Kerala HCs to be made permanent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court collegium on Thursday made public the names of persons it has recommended for appointment as Chief Justices of 10 High Courts.

The recommendations have been made for the High Courts of Delhi, Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, Calcutta, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Manipur. The collegium has recommended Justice Aniruddha Bose, a senior judge of the Calcutta High Court, for appointment as the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.

While Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court Justice T.B. Radhakrishnan has been recommended to be transferred to the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh HC, Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, Chief Justice of Meghalaya HC, has been proposed for the post of Chief Justice of the Karnataka HC. The name of Justice Tarun Agrawala, the senior-most judge of the Allahabad High Court, has been approved for appointment as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court.

The apex court also invoked a provision of the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), which is yet to be finalised, for recommending

appointment of the Chief Justices of the Calcutta and Kerala High Courts. The notification said the collegium had recommended the names of Acting Chief Justices of Calcutta and Kerala HCs – Justice Jyotirmay Bhattacharya and Justice Antony Dominic respectively – as Chief Justices of their own High Courts considering their retirement was due this year.

"It is made clear that the collegium while making the above recommendation is conscious of the fact that Justice Jyotirmay Bhattacharya hails from Calcutta High Court and is due to retire in September this year," it said.

Justice Abhilasha Kumari, a Gujarat High Court judge, has been recommended to be appointed as the Chief Justice of Manipur HC. The name of Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi of the Patna High Court has been proposed for appointment as chief justice of Chhattisgarh HC, while Justice Surya Kant has been recommended for elevation as chief justice of the Himachal Pradesh HC. Justice Ajay Rastogi, a judge of the Rajasthan High Court, has been nominated as Chief Justice of the Tripura court. The collegium has also recommended transfer of Guwahati High Court judge Justice Hrishikesh Roy to Kerala.

Army foils infiltration bid in Kashmir

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Fresh ceasefire violation on Thursday forced the closure of schools along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Pir Panjal Valley's Rajouri. The Army also foiled an infiltration bid in the Tangdhar sector in north Kashmir.

An official spokesman said the firing by Pakistani troops started at 7.45 a.m. in Rajouri's Lam and Pukharni areas. The firing and shelling forced the authorities to close down 71 schools close to the LoC.

A Srinagar-based Army spokesman said a group of four terrorists attempted to infiltrate in Tangdhar. "They were engaged with heavy fire and were seen running away into the jungles towards the LoC."



The NIA had seized 28 cartons of scrapped notes in New Delhi on November 6. ■FILE PHOTO

had collected the money with the intention of exchanging it.

The suspects could not explain how they planned to exchange the old currency, the official said.

The NIA arrested seven people from New Delhi on November 6 with 28 cartons,

in four vehicles, filled with scrapped notes. The other two men were arrested in Srinagar the same day. A total of ₹36.34 crore in old notes was seized from them. NIA said the "crime" did not fall in the category of offences that the agency is mandated to probe.

10.5% hike in allocation for Home Ministry

It gets ₹92,679 cr. this fiscal against ₹83,823.30 cr. in 2017-18

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has been allocated ₹92,679.86 crore, an increase of 10.5% over that of 2017-18, with a special emphasis on improving infrastructure of the police forces.

The Delhi police, which maintain law and order in the national capital, has been allocated ₹6,946.28 crore. A sum of ₹1,750 crore has been allocated for the development of border infrastructure.

During 2017-18, the Home Ministry got ₹83,823.30 crore, according to the Budget papers.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), which is engaged in anti-militancy operations in Jammu and Kashmir and the northeastern States and often deployed on internal security duties, has been allocated ₹20,268 crore as against ₹18,720.08 crore in 2017-18. The Border Security Force (BSF), which guards the borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh, has been allocated ₹17,118.64 crore, as against ₹16,188.74 crore in 2017-18.

The total allocation to the Central Armed Police Forces, including the CRPF, the BSF, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, the Central Industrial Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal, Assam Rifles and the National Security Guard, is ₹62,741.31 crore, compared with ₹58,148.80 crore in 2017-18. The Intelligence Bureau, responsible for gathering internal intelligence, has been allocated ₹1,876.44 crore, ₹6.26 crore less than the sum given last fiscal.

The Special Protection Group, responsible for the security of the Prime Minister and the former Prime Ministers and their family members, has been allocated ₹385 crore as against ₹389.5 crore in 2017-18. A sum of ₹4,289.05 crore has been allocated for the development of police infrastructure, including the construction of barracks and residential quarters and the purchase of vehicles and arms and ammunition.

Nirbhaya Fund

A total of ₹100 crore has been earmarked for Nirbhaya Fund to protect the safety of women, while ₹81.75 crore has been allocated for

chief Karnal Singh told *The Hindu* that the amendments would make the implementation of PMLA more effective. The amendment to Section 8(8) allows the Special Court, if it deems fit, to consider the claims for the purposes of restoration of such properties also during the trial. Earlier, the assets could be restored only after completion of the trial. "It will help provide quick relief in

cases involving public money, including Ponzi scams," said a senior official. The government has introduced a new Sub-Section (2) of Section 66, making it mandatory for the ED to share relevant details with other agencies. "In case we come across any information that can be pursued by other agencies, it will have to be shared with the agency concerned for necessary action," said the official.

CENTRE FOR DNA FINGERPRINTING AND DIAGNOSTICS
Survey Nos. 584 to 587, 634 & 635, opp. to Metro Rail Pillar No. NUP - 9, Inner Ring Road, Uppal, Hyderabad - 500 039
Ph: +91-40 - 27216018 Website : www.cdfd.org.in

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
Walk in interview for the post of Consultant (Veterinarian) for Experimental Animal Facility will be held at 9.30 hrs on 22.02.2018 at the Address shown above in our office.
For details of Consultancy fee, Job Description, Essential Qualification, Desirable Qualification, Duties and responsibilities and Application Form etc. please log on to www.cdfd.org.in.
Head-Administration
CDFD, Hyderabad.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-Tenders are invited for:
(i) Supply of SMPS Power Plant
(ii) Supply of VRLA Battery
For details visit <http://www/istr.bsnl.co.in> (and select tenders - e tender and follow the link).
D.E (MM), STR,
Chennai-32
Tele No.: 044-2250 8545

e-TENDER NOTICE
Name of work : "Construction, supply, delivery, erection, commissioning, trial running and operation & maintenance of sewerage treatment plant of capacity 2.00 MLD in Bhimabhoi, Paradeep, Odisha".
Estimated cost : Rs.8,38,89,844/- Last Date & time of submission : 14.02.2018 upto 13:30 Hrs. For details please refer our Website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>
Executive Engineer, PHD (M)
PPT/PR/726/17-18 Dt- 31.01.2018

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD **RE-E-TENDER NOTICE**
O/o the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, KSEBL, Attungal, Thiruvananthapuram-695 101. Phone : - 944 600 8043.
Re-e-Tender No. : 07/2017-18/EE-ATL/24.01.2018.
Name of Work: Construction of 13 km HT line with Aerial Bunched Cable of size of 3x150x1x 120 sqmm on existing poles under Electrical Sections Attingal and Awanvanchery including supply, testing and commissioning. **PAC: Rs. 1,62,14,770/-**
EMD: Rs. 50,000/- Last date for the submission of tender documents : 12.02.2018, 5 p.m. For details visit www.kseb.in and download tender documents from www.tenders.kerala.gov.in.
PR/MI/134/Window/2746/2018. **Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT KOZHIKODE
IIMK Campus PO, Kozhikode - 673570, Kerala
Ph: 0495-2809133, 460 & 218
e-mail: purchase@iimk.ac.in

CORRIGENDUM
In connection with Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (Eoi) for "Selection of Public Relation Agency/Consultant for IIM Kozhikode". The last date of submission of Eoi is extended upto 01.03.2018 (03.30 pm).
For further details please visit our web site at <http://www.iimk.ac.in/announcements/tender.php>
01-Feb-2018 **Sd/-**
Chief Administrative Officer

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited
Ahmedabad Asset
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
ONGC invites e-bids through ONGC e-procurement portal for **Tender No. DC3AC18004, Brief Description:** Improvement of existing WBM road by Bituminous Work at various well sites of Gamji, Halisa & Limbodia in Area-IV and GGS-IV Kalol. **Estimated cost:** ₹ 1,70,93,261.34. **Contract Period:** 10 (Ten) Month. **EMD:** ₹ 4,17,076.00. **Period of Sale of Tender Documents:** From 02.02.2018 (10:30 Hrs) to 28.02.2018 (14:00 Hrs). **Techno-Commercial Bid Closing/Opening Date/Time:** 28.02.2018 @ 14:00 Hrs / 15:00 Hrs. **Date of Closing/ Opening of Physical Documents:** 28.02.2018 @ 14:00 Hrs / 15:00 Hrs. **AMDC/CC/2017-18/163**
For other details of this tender please login to ONGC web site "https://tenders.ongc.co.in" and "https://e-tender.ongc.co.in"

ELSEWHERE



'Need to take U.K.-China ties to a new level'

BEIJING Chinese President Xi Jinping told British Prime Minister Theresa May on Thursday that their countries should take trade ties to "a new level" as London scouts the globe for fresh partnerships after its contentious EU exit. Ms. May held talks with Mr. Xi at the Diaoyutai State Guest House. AFP

Indian-origin ex-CEO indicted for bribery

WASHINGTON Parimal D. Mehta, former CEO of the Detroit-based FutureNet Group Inc., has been indicted for his alleged role in orchestrating a scheme to bribe a city official to obtain "preferential treatment". He made cash payments to Charles Dodd, ex-Director of the city's Office of Departmental Technology Services, between 2009 and 2016. PTI

Pak. Minister, wife found dead

KARACHI The bullet-riddled bodies of a senior Sindh Province Minister and his wife were found on Thursday at their home in Karachi. Sindh Minister for Planning and Development Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, 71, and his wife, former lawmaker Fariha Razzaq, were found lying in a pool of blood in the bedroom at their home, police said. PTI

Polish lawmakers pass Holocaust Bill

WARSAW Polish lawmakers approved a Bill on Thursday that would impose jail terms for suggesting that Poland was complicit in the Holocaust, drawing outrage from Israel, which denounced "any attempt to challenge historical truth". The Senate voted on the Bill in the early hours of Thursday. REUTERS

Five new mass graves found in Myanmar's Rakhine

Evidence from village gives more information on atrocities against Rohingya

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALUKHALI REFUGEE CAMP, BANGLADESH

The faces of the men half-buried in the mass graves had been burned away by acid or blasted by bullets. Noor Kadir could only recognise his friends by the colours of their shirts.

Mr. Kadir and 14 others, all Rohingya Muslims, had been choosing players for the soccer-like game of chin-lone when the gunfire began. By the time the soldiers stopped shooting at the Myanmar village of Gu Dar Pyin, only Mr. Kadir and two teammates were still alive. Days later, Mr. Kadir found six of his friends lying among the bodies in two graves.

They are among more than five mass graves, all previously unreported, that have been confirmed by The Associated Press through multiple interviews with more than two dozen survivors in Bangladesh refugee camps and through time-stamped cellphone videos.

The Myanmar government regularly claims massacres like Gu Dar Pyin never happened, and has acknowledged only one mass grave containing 10 "terrorists" in the village of Inn Din. The recent findings, however, suggest not only the military's slaughter of civilians but the presence of many more graves.

Genocide in Rakhine?

The graves are the newest piece of evidence for what looks increasingly like a genocide in Myanmar's western Rakhine State against the Rohingya. Satellite images obtained by the Associated Press from DigitalGlobe show a village decimated.



Noor Kadir from the Gu Dar Pyin village in Myanmar, among the survivors of an army operation on August 27. AP

Community leaders have compiled a list of 75 dead so far, and villagers estimate the toll could be as high as 400, based on testimony from relatives and the bodies they've seen in the graves and strewn about the area. Almost every villager interviewed by the Associated Press saw three large mass graves at Gu Dar Pyin's northern entrance, near the main road, where witnesses say soldiers herded and killed most of the Rohingya.

Survivors said soldiers planned the August 27 attack, and tried to hide what they had done. Thousands of people from the area hid deep in the jungle, stranded without food except for the leaves and trees they tried to eat. From about 10 miles away, another group of villagers watched from a mountain as Gu Dar Pyin burned, the flames and smoke snaking into the sky.

Suu Kyi's villa attacked

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

YANGON

A man threw a petrol bomb at the lakeside Yangon compound of Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Thursday, officials said, a rare attack on a national figurehead who enjoys strong domestic support.

There was little damage caused by the attack, Kyi Toe, an official from her National League for Democracy (NLD) party, wrote in a Facebook posting. Ms. Suu Kyi was held for long years at the house by the former junta.

Myanmar court refuses bail to journalists

REUTERS

YANGON

A district court in Myanmar rejected bail on Thursday for two Reuters journalists accused of violating the country's colonial-era Official Secrets Act.

In proceedings, a lawyer for the two journalists told the court that documents police said were found in their possession when they were arrested contained information that was publicly available in newspaper reports.

Wa Lone, 31, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 27, had worked on Reuters coverage of a crisis in Rakhine State, where an army crackdown on insurgents that started on August 25 has triggered the flight of nearly 6,90,000

Rohingya Muslims to neighbouring Bangladesh, according to the United Nations.

'Secret documents'

The reporters were detained on December 12 after they had been invited to meet police officers over dinner in Yangon.

They have told relatives they were arrested almost immediately after being handed some documents at a restaurant by two officers they had not met before.

Police Major Min Thant, one of the arresting officers, on Thursday submitted what he said were secret documents seized from the two reporters to the district court in Yangon that is hearing the case.

'We've presented Pakistan with evidence on militants'

Afghan officials say it shows the attackers were trained there

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL

Afghanistan has given Pakistan confessions and other proof showing that the militants who carried out a recent series of attacks were trained in Pakistan and that Taliban leaders there are allowed to roam freely, Afghan officials said on Thursday.

Interior Minister Wais Ahmad Barmak told a news conference that the evidence was presented at a meeting a day earlier in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad. Afghanistan's spy chief, Ma-soom Stanekzai, also attended the meeting, along with senior Pakistani military and intelligence officials.

Mr. Stanekzai, addressing



Wais Ahmad Barmak, Afghanistan's Interior Minister. AP

the same news conference, said Afghanistan laid out its proof and asked Pakistan to take action to prevent further attacks. A Pakistani delegation is due in Kabul on Sa-

turday, said Mr. Stanekzai.

Nearly 200 people have been killed over the past month in attacks claimed by the Taliban and a rival Islamic State affiliate.

"The Taliban, with these actions, cannot call themselves a political organisation," Mr. Stanekzai said. "They are a terrorist organisation... We expect action, not just talk," he added.

The Afghan officials said some of the latest evidence came from confessions by captured militants. They said they told the Pakistani side that some of the militants had been trained at Islamic seminaries in the Pakistani border town of Chaman.

U.K. education regulator backs teacher in hijab row

Indian-origin headmistress tried to ban headscarf at school

VIDYA RAM

LONDON

The head of Britain's schools regulator, OFSTED, has given her strong backing to an Indian-origin headmistress of a state primary school in London who has courted controversy over her attempt to ban girls under the age of eight from wearing the hijab in class.

She warned that some, under the "pretext of religious belief", were trying to "actively pervert the purpose of education... to narrow young people's horizons, to isolate and segregate and in the worst cases indoctrinate impressionable minds with extre-

mist ideology". Amanda Spielman, the Chief Inspector of OFSTED, on Thursday voiced her "full support" for Neena Lall, the head teacher at St. Stephen's School in the east London borough of Newham. "Schools must have the right to set school uniform policies as they see fit, in order to promote cohesion," she said, condemning the abuse the school and Ms. Lall had been subject to.

Everyone in education had a duty to promote "muscular liberalism" rather than a "passive liberalism that says 'anything goes' for fear of offence", she said. "Occasionally, that will mean taking uncomfortable decisions

or having tough conversations... And it means schools must not be afraid to call out practices, whatever their justification, that limit young people's experiences and learning in school."

The school's decision to bring in the ban, as part of a wider review of school policy, was subsequently reversed, but has attracted much attention nationally. Over 19,000 people signed a petition calling on Ms. Lall to reverse the ban on hijabs for under eight year olds and fasting for students at the school, while Ms. Lall and the school were also subject to a social campaign, comparing her to Hitler.

Trump likely to clear memo's release despite FBI's concerns

Document suggests abuse of power by intelligence agencies

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON

The White House was working on Thursday to clear the release of a secret Republican memo alleging FBI bias against U.S. President Donald Trump, an administration official said, disregarding a warning from the top U.S. law enforcement agency.

As White House legal and national security experts reviewed the document, the Senate's No. 3 Republican, John Thune, urged his House of Representatives colleagues to allow the Senate Intelligence Committee to review the document and to heed the FBI's concerns before they made it public.

Democrats have called the four-page memo misleading, based on a selective use of highly classified data and intended to discredit



who wrote the memo. AP

Special Counsel Robert Mueller's criminal probe into potential collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia to help him win the 2016 presidential election. The document was crafted by Republicans on the House Intelligence Committee, and commissioned by Devin Nunes, the panel's Republican chairman.

Top House Democrat

Nancy Pelosi, on Thursday sent a letter to Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan calling for Mr. Nunes to be removed as chairman, saying Mr. Nunes had acted dishonestly in altering the memo. The committee's senior Democrat, Adam Schiff, late on Wednesday said he had discovered that Mr. Nunes had sent the White House a version of the memo that was "materially altered" and not what the panel voted on Monday to release. "This action is not only dangerous, it is illegitimate, and violates House rules," Ms. Pelosi said.

The FBI on Wednesday expressed "grave concerns" about omission of facts in the memo. Justice Department officials have also said releasing the memo could jeopardise classified information.

President Hamid set to be re-elected

HAROON HABIB

DHAKA

Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid is all set to be re-elected following his nomination by the ruling Awami League party. The Constitution allows a President to serve two terms.

The ruling party's general secretary Obaidul Quader announced Mr. Hamid's nomination after a meeting of the party's Parliamentary Board, chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, on Wednesday. As the party has an absolute majority in Parliament and the Opposition has not fielded any candidate, Mr. Hamid's re-election is a certainty.

The first term of Mr. Hamid, who took office in 2013, ends on April 23 this year. The presidential election, in which MPs vote in Parliament, is to take place on February 18.

'U.K. needs more skilled migrants'

Industry asks govt. to raise annual cap on the number of non-EU work visas

VIDYA RAM

LONDON

The British industry is calling on the government to raise the annual cap on the number of non-EU workers able to gain work visas, as well as an end to the government's migration target, after it emerged that the cap had been hit two months in a row.

Recent Home Office data revealed that the monthly limits in both December and January for the number of Tier 2 visas available (the government has an annual cap of 20,700) had been reached for the first time since October 2015, despite a recent hike in the minimum salary for applicants. This had knock-on consequences for industry, including the National

Health Service (NHS), with several trusts reporting that they had been unable to recruit some of the doctors they had hoped to.

"Hitting the cap and limiting skilled workers coming to work from across the globe damages U.K. competitiveness," warned Neil Carberry of the Confederation of British Industry.

Growing labour market

"If the U.K. is to make a success of Brexit and build a truly global Britain, then the non-EEA migration system must be fit for purpose. An end to the net migration target and a rise in the cap to reflect our growing labour market, is required to help businesses grasp new opportunities for growth."



Confederation of British Industry.

Under the Tier 2 (general) system – the most commonly used work route for Indian workers into the U.K. – once the monthly cap is reached, further certificates of sponsorship are allocated based on a points-based system, depending on whether work

for an occupation on the official shortage list is being applied for, whether the work is PhD level, and also on the basis of salary.

The result is that those in non-shortage occupations need higher salaries – £55,000 in December, and £46,000 in January. Applicants for Tier 2 visas must earn at least £30,000 under recent changes, and £20,800 for graduate recruits or under 26s.

The Confederation's is not a lone voice. "The Tier 2 cap is absurd. It causes the U.K. to reject the brightest and best the government says it wants to attract," warned Dr. Sarah Main, executive director of the Campaign for Science and Engineering, earlier this month.

SALE

There's no better time to fast-track your career.

The BLoC Flash Sale is on!

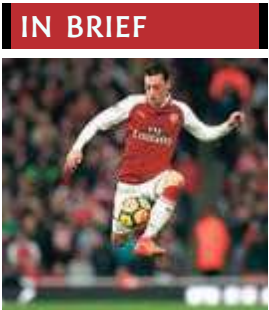
SUBSCRIPTION PLANS:

	ANNUAL	HALF-YEARLY
Original Price	₹999/-	₹499/-
Flash Sale Price	₹199/-	₹99/-

Offer closes on February 9th

Don't miss out on this super-value deal to get corporate-ready. Subscribe now!

Visit www.bloncampus.com



IN BRIEF

Mesut Ozil commits to three-year Arsenal deal
LONDON
German playmaker Mesut Ozil ended speculation over his future at Arsenal by agreeing to a new three-year deal with the Premier League club on Thursday. "3 more years with @Arsenal! It's been one of the most important decisions of my footballing career and that's why I had to think hard and talk with everyone who's important to me," Ozil, 29, posted on his Instagram account. AFP

Pakistan finishes third after washout

QUEENSTOWN
Two-time champion Pakistan claimed third position at the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2018 after its third-fourth position playoff match against Afghanistan was washed out on Thursday without a ball being bowled, here on Thursday. Pakistan and Afghanistan were in Group D and though Afghanistan beat Pakistan in its opener, Pakistan topped the group after Afghanistan lost to Ireland in its last group match.



SC to hear Sreesanth's plea on February 5

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court has agreed to hear on February 5 an appeal filed by cricketer S. Sreesanth against a Kerala High Court verdict that restored the life ban imposed on him by the BCCI in the wake of the 2013 IPL spot-fixing scandal. A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra directed that the case be listed for hearing before an appropriate bench according to the roster after the matter was mentioned before it. PTI

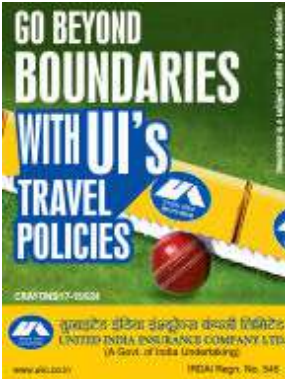
Kohli, Rahane help India draw first blood

The two put on a record 189-run partnership to end South Africa's 17-match winning streak at home

INDIA IN SA

REUTERS
DURBAN

Captain Virat Kohli struck a stylish century to lead India to a comfortable six-wicket victory over South Africa in the first One-Day International on Thursday and end the hosts' 17-match winning streak on home soil.



India amassed 270 for four to reach the target with 27 balls to spare at Kingsmead after South Africa captain Faf du Plessis, who won the toss, scored 120 of his side's 269 for eight.

A record 189-run third-wicket partnership between Kohli, who made 112, and Ajinkya Rahane (79) set up India's victory in the opening game of the six-match series.

Kohli reached his 33rd ODI hundred off 105 balls while Rahane's flamboyant knock came off 86 balls.

Their stand was the highest for the third wicket in an ODI at Durban, beating a two-decade-old mark held by Pakistan, and ensured India eased to victory with plenty to spare.

Earlier, opting to bat, South Africa got off to a patient 30-run start before Jasprit Bumrah's sharp inswinger trapped opener Hashim Amla in front. du Plessis and wicket-keeper Quinton de Kock (34) shared a 53-run second-wicket stand before Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep crippled the hosts with some excellent bowling.

The South African skipper started well by punishing

pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar for three consecutive boundaries as the second-wicket partnership flourished before leg-spinner Chahal struck with the wicket of de Kock, trapped in front. Chahal jolted the hosts further with the wicket of Aiden Markram, thanks to a brilliant catch from Hardik Pandya.

Kuldeep joined the party with the quick dismissals of Jean-Paul Duminy and David Miller even as du Plessis looked comfortable driving Kuldeep for a couple of runs through extra cover.

Flummoxed
Duminy found the going tough against the chinaman bowler before a googly, which kept low, broke through his defence to leave the hosts at 122 for four.

Miller, who walked in next, also struggled against Kuldeep and all he could manage was a drive to skipper Kohli, who completed a good catch diving forward at short cover.

From 134 for five, du Plessis and Chris Morris (37) piled on the runs to take South Africa to a better-than-

expected total, and hand a sell-out crowd hope, but still significantly short of a winning score.

du Plessis, who survived a few close chances before reaching his century with a single off Bhuvneshwar Kumar, raised a 56-run partnership in the company of Andile Phehlukwayo (27 not out). The skipper fell in the final over of the innings, holding out to long-off.

Kuldeep Yadav was the pick of the Indian bowlers, finishing with figures of three for 34 in his 10-over spell.

India had won eight of its previous nine ODIs chasing down a target, and Kohli felt his side was always in with a chance of doing so again.

"It was a special knock for me because the first game of a series is always important. When we restricted South Africa, we knew we needed one partnership to effectively take us home," said Kohli at the presentation ceremony.

The second game of the series is at Centurion in Pretoria on Sunday. South Africa tops the ICC ODI team rankings while India is second.

SCOREBOARD SOUTH AFRICA VS INDIA, FIRST ODI

South Africa: Quinton de Kock lbw b Chahal 34 (49b, 4x4), Hashim Amla lbw b Bumrah 16 (17b, 1x4), Faf du Plessis c Pandya b Bhuvneshwar 120 (112b, 11x4, 2x6), Aiden Markram c Pandya b Chahal 9 (21b), J-P. Duminy b Kuldeep 12 (18b, 1x4), David Miller c Kohli b Kuldeep 7 (7b, 1x4), Chris Morris b Kuldeep 37 (43b, 4x4, 1x6), Andile Phehlukwayo (not out) 27 (33b, 1x4, 1x6), Kagiso Rabada run out 1 (1b), Morne Morkel (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (lb-3, nb-1, w-2): 6; Total (for eight wkts. in 50 overs): 269.

Fall of wickets: 1-30 (Amla, 7.3 overs), 2-83 (de Kock, 14.6), 3-103 (Markram, 20.4), 4-122 (Duminy, 25.5), 5-134 (Miller, 27.5), 6-208 (Morris, 40.4), 7-264 (du Plessis, 49.2), 8-268 (Rabada, 49.5).

India bowling: Bhuvneshwar 10-1-71-1, Bumrah 10-0-56-1, Pandya 7-0-41-0, Chahal 10-0-45-2, Kuldeep 10-0-34-3,

Jadhav 3-0-19-0.

India: Rohit Sharma c de Kock b Morkel 20 (30b, 2x4, 1x6), Shikhar Dhawan run out 35 (29b, 6x4), Virat Kohli c Rabada b Phehlukwayo 112 (119b, 10x4), Ajinkya Rahane c Tahir b Phehlukwayo 79 (86b, 5x4, 2x6), Hardik Pandya (not out) 3 (6b), M.S. Dhoni (not out) 4 (3b, 1x4); Extras (lb-6, w-11): 17; Total (for four wkts. in 45.3 overs): 270.

Fall of wickets: 1-33 (Rohit, 6.3), 2-67 (Dhawan, 12.2), 3-256 (Rahane, 42.4), 4-262 (Kohli, 44.3).

South Africa bowling: Morkel 7-0-35-1, Rabada 9.3-0-48-0, Morris 7-0-52-0, Tahir 10-0-51-0, Phehlukwayo 8-0-42-2, Duminy 2-0-16-0, Markram 2-0-20-0.

Toss: South Africa.
Man-of-the-match: Kohli.
India won by six wkts. with 27 balls to spare to take 1-0 lead in six-match series.



Virat Kohli yet again proved that he is a master of the chase, scoring a superbly paced century, his 33rd in ODIs. •REUTERS

ICC meetings on Feb. 8 & 9

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The ICC's quarterly meetings of the Board and Committees will be held in Dubai on February 8 and 9. Among other items on the agenda, the ICC board is likely to consider applications for the post of an independent woman director.

de Silva makes merry

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
CHITTAGONG

hananjaya de Silva struck a century and shared 187 runs in an unbroken second-wicket stand with Kushal Mendis as Sri Lanka gave a strong reply to Bangladesh in the first cricket Test here on Thursday.

de Silva made an unbeaten 104 while Mendis hit 83 not out, guiding Sri Lanka to 187 for one at stumps on the second day.

SCOREBOARD

Bangladesh — 1st innings: Tamim Iqbal b Dilruwan 52, Imrul Kayes lbw b Sandakan 40, Mominul Haque c Mendis b Herath 176, Mushfiqur Rahim c Dickwella b Lakmal 92, Liton Das b Lakmal 0, Mahmudullah (not out) 83, Mosaddek Hossain c Sandakan b Herath 8, Mehedi Hasan run out 20, Sunzamul Islam st. Dickwella b Sandakan 24, Taijul Islam b Herath 1, Mustafizur Rahman c Dickwella b Lakmal 8; Extras (nb-4, w-5): 9; Total (in 129.5 overs): 513.

Fall of wickets: 1-72, 2-120, 3-356, 4-356, 5-376, 6-390, 7-417, 8-475, 9-478.

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 23.5-4-68-3, Kumara 15-1-79-0, Dilruwan 27-4-112-1, Herath 37-2-150-3, Sandakan 22-1-92-2, Dhananjaya 5-0-12-0.

Sri Lanka — 1st innings: Dimuth Karunaratne c Kayes b Mehedi 0, Kusal Mendis (batting) 83, Dhananjaya de Silva (batting) 104; Total (for one wkt. in 48 overs): 187.

Fall of wicket: 1-0.
Bangladesh bowling: Mustafizur 7-1-31-0, Sunzamul 15-1-52-0, Mehedi 8-0-45-1, Taijul 17-3-56-0, Mosaddek 1-0-3-0.

Spurs pull a fast one on Man United

PREMIER LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Tottenham's Christian Eriksen scored within 11 seconds on Wednesday to overshadow Alexis Sanchez's Premier League debut for Manchester United, while Chelsea crashed to a 3-0 defeat at Bournemouth.

Manchester City ignored the carnage around it to march serenely on, widening its lead to an enormous 15 points with a 3-0 victory at

home to West Brom with just 13 games still to play.

The results: Chelsea 0 lost to Bournemouth 3 (Wilson 51, Stanislas 64, Ake 67).

Everton 2 (Walcott 25, 39) bt Leicester 1 (Vardy 71-pen). Manchester City 3 (Fernandinho 19, de Bruyne 68, Aguero 89) bt West Brom 0.

Newcastle 1 (Lascelles 65) drew with Burnley 1 (Vokes 85). Southampton 1 (Stephens 64) drew with Brighton 1 (Murray 14-pen).

Stoke 0 drew with Watford 0.

Tottenham 2 (Eriksen 1, Jones 28-og) bt Man United 0.



Tottenham's Christian Eriksen, who scored within 11 seconds against Manchester United, pushes past Alexis Sanchez and Jesse Lingard, right. •REUTERS

Jamshedpur stuns Mumbai

The debutant climbs to fourth place in the ISL table

ISL

NANDAKUMAR KUMAR
MUMBAI

Desperate for a victory to remain in contention for a top four place, Mumbai City FC finished on the losing side at the Mumbai Football Arena against Jamshedpur FC.

The home team made amends for a first-half self-goal from Sanju Pradhan by clawing back through Everton Santos late into the second half but was shattered when Bikash Jaiu slotted the winner for the visitor.

The hard-fought 2-1 win raised ISL debutant JFC into fourth place, after six wins in 14 games, while the home team remains in sixth place after three defeats in a row at the MFA.

MCFC cannot be faulted for lacking in intent but striker Balwant Singh seemed to have kept his scoring boots behind, headers from close range went wide or were



Farrukh Choudhary excelled for Jamshedpur with some nice dribbles and shots at goal. •ISL/SPORTZPICS

saved by Subrata Paul in goal. Achille Emana ran tirelessly and slipped superb passes in vain.

JFC went ahead with some help from the home team defenders. Sanju Pradhan rushing back to clear a ball going goal-wards found his lob go inside. Farrukh Choudhary had created panic weaving his way in and

took a left-footed shot, which struck a retreating defender's foot and lobbed up.

Balwant got three clear opportunities in the second half. Two snap headers flew wide, leaving the striker clutching his hair in desperation, and one header was collected by Subrata. Emana set up the fourth chance with a swivel past markers

and tapped for Balwant to bring Thiago Santos into action at the left post. But Subrata got in the way.

Brazilian defender Gerson Viera wore the captain's armband as skipper Luican Arnan was benched. Marcio Rosario played in the middle of the defence.

These two hulks were kept busy by Farrukh and Izu Azuka and they took shots at target. Amrinder Singh saved the first but the next went wide.

JFC faced a bit of anxiety when Balwant charged down the left flank. Subrata stepped back and allowed his defender to deal with the threat, at the expense of a corner kick. Thiago skipped past a tackle and charged forward and Souvik Chakravarthy's decision to halt the MFC forward in brutal way earned him a yellow card.

The result: Jamshedpur FC 2 (Sanju Pradhan 37-og, Bikash Jaiu 84) bt Mumbai City FC 1 (Everton Santos 79).

ONE NATION
GRID
FREQUENCY

The arteries of
Nation's Growth

POWERGRID

Extract of the Statement of Un-audited Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months ended 31st December, 2017 (₹ in Crore)

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended 31.12.2017 (Un-audited)	Quarter ended 31.12.2016 (Un-audited)	Nine Months ended 31.12.2017 (Un-audited)	Nine Months ended 31.03.2016 (Un-audited)	Year ended 31.03.2017 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operation (Net)	7506.95	6629.76	21941.14	19004.50	25716.54
2.	Profit before Tax (including Regulatory Deferral Account Balances)	2640.45	2500.62	7918.62	7145.07	9569.76
3.	Profit after Tax for the period before Regulatory Deferral Account Balances	2142.76	1938.41	6185.60	5616.77	7450.22
4.	Profit for the Period after Tax	2040.83	1930.02	6234.28	5603.79	7520.15
5.	Total Comprehensive Income comprising Net Profit after Tax and Other Comprehensive Income	2035.95	1900.31	6264.92	5589.76	7569.98
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of share : ₹10/- each)	5231.59	5231.59	5231.59	5231.59	5231.59
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year					44575.66
8.	Earnings per equity share including movement in Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (Face value ₹10/- each): Basic and Diluted (In ₹)	3.90	3.69	11.92	10.71	14.37
9.	Earnings per equity share excluding movement in Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (Face value ₹10/- each): Basic and Diluted (In ₹)	4.09	3.71	11.82	10.74	14.24

Notes:

(1) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results is available on the Investor Relations section of our website <http://www.powergridindia.com> and under Corporates Section of BSE Limited & National Stock Exchange of India Limited at <http://www.bseindia.com> and <http://www.nseindia.com>.

(2) In exercise of powers u/s 178 of the Electricity Act 2003, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has notified "CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations 2014" vide order dated 21st February, 2014 for the determination of transmission tariff for the block period 2014-19.

(b) The company has recognised Transmission income during the quarter and nine months ended 31st December, 2017 as per the following:

(i) ₹5086.48 crore for the quarter (corresponding previous quarter ₹5446.45 crore) and ₹17396.02 crore for the nine months (corresponding previous nine months ₹16047.36 crore) as per final tariff orders issued by CERC.

(ii) ₹1090.83 crore for the quarter (corresponding previous quarter ₹760.39 crore) and ₹3549.43 crore for the nine months (corresponding previous nine months ₹1943.41 crore) in respect of transmission assets for which final tariff orders are yet to be issued as per CERC Tariff Regulations and other orders in similar cases.

(c) Consequent to the final orders issued by the CERC, transmission income includes ₹69.99 crore (decrease) and ₹48.19 crore (decrease) for the quarter and the nine months ended 31st December, 2017 respectively pertaining to earlier years (corresponding figures for quarter and nine months of previous year are ₹15.78 crore (decrease) and ₹93.16 crore (increase) respectively).

3. Employee benefits expense includes ₹140.88 crore for the quarter (corresponding previous quarter Nil) and ₹239.93 crore for the nine months (corresponding previous nine months Nil) (net of amount transferred to expenditure during construction) towards pay revision of employees of the Company, due w.e.f. 1st January, 2017.

4. Provision for taxes, employee benefits and other provisions for contingencies have been considered on estimated basis.

5. Interim dividend of ₹2.45 per share (Face value ₹10/- each) for the financial year 2017-18 has been declared by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on 1st February, 2018.

6. The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and have been approved by the Board of Directors in their respective meetings held on 1st February, 2018.

7. The above results have been reviewed by the Statutory Auditors as required under regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 1st February, 2018

India's Best Companies
To Work For 2017
THE ECONOMIC TIMES

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Regd. Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi - 110016
Corp. Office: "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram, Haryana - 122 001
CIN: L40101DL1999GOI038121

Important Notice: Members are requested to register/update their e-mail ID with Company/Depository participants/ Company's Registrar & Transfer Agent (Karvy) which will be used for sending official documents through e-mail in future.

A 'NAVRATNA' COMPANY

Visit us at:
YouTube
Facebook
LinkedIn
www.powergridindia.com

For and on behalf of
POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
Sd/-
(I. S. Jha)
Chairman & Managing Director

@Daily_English_Papers

Join@Daily_English_Papers

TV PICKS

1st Test: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.
I-League: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 8 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Wozniacki wants to win more titles
ST. PETERSBURG
Newly-crowned Australian Open champion Caroline Wozniacki said on Wednesday her first Grand Slam triumph had motivated her to win more titles. "I have already been World No. 1 in the past. I've finally won a Grand Slam title. I really want to perform well at the St. Petersburg event. My main motivation is to win the title," she said. **AFP**



afael Nadal set to return in Acapulco
ALICANTE (SPAIN)
Spanish World No. 1 Rafael Nadal says he will return to action at a hard-court event in Acapulco in late February. That means an encouragingly speedy recovery for the 16-time Grand Slam champion after he suffered a muscle tear in his right hip that forced him to retire in the fifth set of his quarterfinal at the Australian Open. **IAN S**



zarenka given wild-card for Indian Wells
LOS ANGELES
Two-time champion Victoria Azarenka has been awarded a wild-card into the main draw of the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells in March, organisers said on Wednesday. The Belarusian, who won the hard court title in 2012 and 2016, will return this year after missing the 2017 event following the birth of her son. **AFP**



uel wants Mahrez to come back with a smile
LONDON
Leicester manager Claudio Puel intends to do all he can to ensure that Riyad Mahrez comes back "with a smile" after the Algeria playmaker saw a potential move to Manchester City fall through on Wednesday's transfer deadline day. "All the players and staff will help him come back and enjoy his game." **A FP**

Srihari makes a splash in 100m backstroke

Bhupender Singh upstages Praveen to corner glory in long jump

KHELO INDIA

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI
Karnataka's Srihari Nataraj took the honours in the swimming pool on Day Two of the Khelo India School Games here on Thursday, winning the 100m backstroke gold in 56.90 seconds to set a new National mark in the event. The previous record of 56.99s was set by him at the Asian age group championship in Tashkent last year.

Srihari also added the 4x100m freestyle gold to his kitty, combining with Saif Chandan Ali KS — who won an individual bronze for himself in the 400m freestyle category — Prassiddh Krishna and Aditya Bopanna as Karnataka leapfrogged into top spot on the table with ten medals, seven of them gold. Tamil Nadu had more medals overall (12) with most of them bronze.

Most of Tamil Nadu's medals continued to come in track and field. C. Praveen's hopes of a golden double were dashed when he was pushed to second spot in the long jump by Haryana's Bhupender Singh in the second-last attempt.

Leading till the very end, with a jump of 6.93 metres, Praveen had to settle for second spot after Bhupender managed distances of 6.99 and 7.04 in his last two attempts. But Praveen, who had won the triple jump on Day One, became the third double medallist in track and field competition, along with the Kerala duo of Ancy



Bhupender Singh, flanked by silver medallist C. Praveen, right, and Mohd. Shahrukh, strikes a pose after claiming the long jump gold on Thursday.

Sojan E and Sandra Babu. Ancy won gold in long jump — despite managing just two legitimate jumps — and silver in the 200m while Sandra added a long jump silver to go with her second spot in triple jump.

In the boys' javelin throw event, Maharashtra's Vikas Yadav claimed gold with a final attempt of 75.02m to overtake Yashveer Singh of Haryana, who had three throws of over 70 metres in an event where the top four finishers crossed the 70m mark.

The results: Athletics: 200m: Boys: 1. Shashikanth VA 21.82s, 2. Karan Hegiste 21.98, 3. Anshul 22.27s; **Girls:** 1. Chanveer Kaur 24.76s, 2. Ancy Sojan E

25.31, 3. M. Santra Teresa Martin 25.44
Javelin: Boys: 1. Vikas Yadav 75.02m, 2. Yashveer Singh 73.87, 3. Arpit Yadav 71.90; **Girls:** 1. Jyoti 40.59m, 2. Auhona Roy 39.90, 3. Jashanpreet Kaur 37.10m
Long jump: Boys: 1. Bhupender Singh 7.04, 2. C. Praveen 6.93, 3. Mohd. Shahrukh 6.87; **Girls:** 1. Ancy Sojan E 5.80, 2. Sandra Babu 5.68, P. Babisha 5.62
Pole vault: Girls: 1. T. Sathya 3.50, 2. Reshma Patil 2.80, 3. R. Sreelakshmi R 2.40
Swimming: 400m freestyle: Boys: 1. Mohit Venkatesh 4:18.10s, 2. Zidane Iqbal Sayed 4:18.43, 3. Saif Chandan Ali KS 4:19.10; **Girls:** 1. Khushi Dinesh 4:39.52, 2. Prachi Tokas 4:41.55, 3. Poojitha G. Murthy 4:46.83
100m backstroke: Boys: 1. Sri-

hari Nataraj 56.90, 2. Xavier Michael D'Souza 1:00.03, 3. Vedant Bapna 1:01.31; **Girls:** 1. Suvana C. Bhaskar 1:08.23, 2. Khushi Jain 1:09.58, 3. Pratyasa Ray 1:10.05
200m breaststroke: Boys: 1. Lohith M 2:25.99, 2. Swadesh Mondal 2:26.70, 3. Maibam Mangalsana Meitei 2:30.38; **Girls:** 1. Saloni Dalal 2:46.57, 2. Kenisha Gupta 2:48.50, 3. Aaliyah Singh 2:51.75
100m butterfly: Boys: 1. Xavier Michael D'Souza 57.85, 2. Neel Roy 58.42, 3. Adhithya D 58.56; **Girls:** 1. Firdous Kayamkhani 1:08.15, 2. Aastha Choudhury 1:09.68, 3. Poojitha G. Murthy and Priyanga Pugazharasu 1:09.94
4x100m freestyle: Boys: 1. Karnataka 3:44.11, 2. Tamil Nadu 3:44.94, 3. Maharashtra 3:48.32

Hole-in-one sees Saqib grab lead

Holder Mukesh misses the cut

COCHIN MASTERS

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

While some big names found the windy conditions tough, Bengaluru's Syed Saqib Ahmed was in full flow as he moved to the top of the leaderboard with a six-under-66 after the second round of the PGTI Cochin Masters at the CIAL Golf Club, Nedumbassery, on Thursday.

Massive lead
Saqib, who also had a stunning hole-in-one on the 14th hole, tallied nine-under-135 and led by a massive four shots after the halfway stage of the four-round event.

He also had five birdies on his dream day which saw him move from tied-third to the top.

The cut was declared at five-over-149 and 53 players made it but defending champion Mukesh Kumar was one of the big names missing.

The star from Mhow missed the cut by one shot for a

total read six-over-150.

Meanwhile, Noida's Amardip Singh Malik, the opening round leader, was in the second place after a round of even-par-72 took his total to five-under-139 at the ₹40 lakh event.

"Everything just felt right today. I was in a good frame of mind from the very start and it's great to lead an event for the first time in my professional career," said Saqib.

"The hole-in-one was special as I saw the ball roll in. I was actually between clubs there and I guess the decision to play the nine-iron just paid off.

"I did not have a great 2017 and I didn't come to this event with any expectations so I have no fixed goals in mind for the next two days as well.

"I'm just looking to turn the tide this year."

The scores (after round two, par 72+72):

1. Syed Saqib Ahmed (135); 2. Amardip Singh Malik (139); 3. Shankar Das & Abhijit Singh Chadha (both 140); 5. Manu Gandas & Honey Baisoya (142).



Syed Saqib Ahmed had a stunning hole-in-one on the 14th. **■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

DUFC ropes in Hugo Martins

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi United Football Club (DUFC) has roped in Hugo Martins as its head coach for the upcoming I-League second division. Martins will be assisted by Francisco Guimaraes.

"We are truly excited, with tremendous motivation and ambition to help grow Delhi United. We believe we can influence through our methodology and leadership a higher quality game and organization to always be closer to victory," said Hugo.

Delhi United Football Club had finished third in the previous season of I-League 2, narrowly missing out on promotion to the top league. Delhi United is headed by Dr. Sandeep Kumar, an expert in sports medicine, and Krishna Anand, an entrepreneur from Delhi.

PSPB TT starts today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Seven Arjuna Awardees will be in the fray in the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) inter-unit table tennis championships, at the Kotla Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy indoor stadium, Yusufguda, from February 2 to 6.

The open nature of the competitions throws up possibilities of the big guns facing those much younger, going by the association of players with their employers.

Besides full-time employees, the oil majors have players on contract, aged generally between 18 and 21 years and those on scholarship who are under 18, such as World boys under-18 No. 1 Manav Thakkar and World No. 19 Archana Girish Kamath among girls in the same age category.

CAS lifts life bans of 28 Russians

LAUSANNE
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Thursday lifted life bans on 28 of the 43 Russians accused of doping at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.

In a decision that could allow some of them to compete in this month's Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, CAS ruled there was insufficient evidence that the athletes had benefited from a system of state-sponsored doping at the last Winter Games, hosted by Russia.

Aman, Wasim sizzle

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Aman Khatri smashed a match-winning 180-run knock and Wasim Ahmed picked up six wickets for just 17 runs as NK Khanna CC thrashed South Delhi Club by 167 runs in a DDCA League match on Thursday.

In another game, Mandip Kumar excelled with both bat and ball, top-scoring with 79 and picking up three wickets as Patel Nagar Gymkhana beat RCN Club by 113 runs while Dev Lakra and Saksham Singroha shared seven wickets apiece in Malik Sports' 209-run victory against Mishra Sports.

The scores: NK Khanna CC 328 for five in 40 overs (Aman Khatri 180, Kunwar Bidhuri 78; Deepak Khatri two for 67) bt South Delhi Club 161 in 25.1 overs (Sattion Gahlot 60, Harry Dalal 36; Wasim Ahmed six for 17); Patel Nagar Gymkhana 238 in 40 overs (Mandip Kumar 79, Kapil 69; Ayush Chauhan three for 29, Milind Bedi three for 44) bt RCN 125 in 31 overs (Mandip Kumar three for

23, Kapil two for 19); Malik Sports 259 for five in 40 overs (Ardit Rana 85, Yash Dhull 68, Aman Jainwal 40; Vineet Dubey two for 49) bt Mishra Sports 50 in 15.2 overs (Dev Lakra four for 13, Saksham Singroha three for seven).

York CC 192 for nine in 40 overs (Pawan Sharma 71 not out, Krish Yadav 73; Salman Khan two for 34) bt Delhi CC 146 in 37.4 overs (Jishan Meewati 42, Rahul Patwal 33; Pawan Sharma three for 25); Delhi Blues 258 for six in 40 overs (Salil Malhotra 78, Gagan Bhatia 50 not out, Manpreet Singh 48; Rohan

Parchand two for 70) bt Pusa Youngster 163 32.4 overs (Jatin Kumar 62; Ankit Pal five for 20, Digvesh Rathii three for 42); DDA 346 for seven in 40 overs (Davanshu Kohli 115, Deepak Sharma 41; Devender Yadav three for 62) bt Canara Bank 84 in 17.1 overs (Khusiram four for 11, Ravinder Meena three for 19); KG Colts 137 in 40 overs (Upanshu Verma 36; Jagjeet Singh three for 20, Subham Verma two for 11) lost to Rani Bagh 138 for one in 24.3 overs (Gulzar Singh 62 not out, Rajiv Ranjan 73).

Bhutia's academy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Having established itself as a centre for providing quality football training at the grassroots, the Bhaichung Bhutia Football Schools network, India's largest football training programme, is launching its first residential academy at Vedas International School in Sohna, Haryana.

Those born between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2007 are eligible to appear for the admission trials to be held from 10 a.m. at the IIT Delhi football ground on February 4 and Cambridge School, Noida, on February 11. The trials would be conducted by coaches from the BBFS.

While the programme is a paid one, partial or full scholarship will be provided to talented youngsters. Registration on www.bbfs.in/academy or Ph: 9599030181.

Subah Ka Tara expected to score

BENGALURU: Subah Ka Tara, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the Karnataka Racehorse Owners' Association Million (1,200m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Friday (Feb. 2). False rails (width about 7m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1. HERBIE FALLS PLATE (1,600m), rated 00 to 20, 2-15 pm: 1. Nyssa (9) Arshad 60, 2. Buckpasser Junior (2) Harish 59.5, 3. Corybantic (11) Chisty 59.5, 4. Kanthaka (10) Raghu 59.5, 5. Golden Opinion (6) Ashok 58.5, 6. Bellerophon (8) Prabhakaran 58, 7. Internal Affair (3) Kiran Rai 58, 8. Magnificent Mary (12) Dhebe 57, 9. Ocean Park (7) Jagadeesh 56.5, 10. Simple Sum (4) Darshan 56.5, 11. Kings Cdm (1) Sahanawaz 55 and 12. Perfect Prince (5) Rayan 54.5.
1. CORYBANTIC, 2. INTERNAL AFFAIR, 3. NYSSA

2. R.W.I.T.C. TROPHY (1,400m), 4-y-o, (Terms), 2-45: 1. Pinyada (3) Suraj 58.5, 2. Turf Star (2) Chisty 58.5, 3. Turf Magic (1) Dhebe 57 and 4. Hot N Fire (4) Mudassar 54.
1. PINYADA, 2. TURF MAGIC

3. SHRAVANABELAGOLA PLATE (1,600m), rated 15 to 35, 6-y-o & over, 3-15: 1. Yellowzone (0) Arshad 60, 2. First Step (-) (-) 58.5, 3. Only Prince (8) Pradeep 57, 4. Freestyle (2) Chisty 56, 6. Reverberating (7) Janardhan 56, 7. Emancipation (1) Darshan 55.5, 8. Wings Of Fortune (4) Kiran Rai 55.5, 9. Ex-

tremelydangerous (3) Rayan 52.5, 10. Saffron Intense (6) Rajesh K 51.5 and 11. Boysterver (9) Jagadeesh 51.
1. DEL PORTO, 2. EMANCIPATION, 3. WINGS OF FORTUNE

4. CHICKMAGALUR NIRVANAPPA SHETTY NANJAMMA TMP CUP (Div. I), (1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 5-y-o & over, 3-45: 1. Dagobert (11) Akram 60, 2. Hidden Soldier (7) Rajesh K 59, 3. Secret Dimension (4) Kiran Rai 59, 4. Summer Dawn (5) Sai Kiran 59, 5. Colour Of Gold (12) Naveen 58.5, 6. Expert (1) Jagadeesh 58.5, 7. Reference (8) Irvan 58.5, 8. Campari Girl (2) Suraj 57.5, 9. Montenegro (9) Anjar 56, 10. Back Of Beyond (6) Arshad 55.5, 11. Tindarella (3) Allan 55.5 and 12. James Bond (10) Patel 55.
1. CAMPARI GIRL, 2. REFERENCE, 3. MONTENEGRO

5. KARNATAKA RACEHORSE OWNERS' ASSOCIATION MILLION (1,200m), 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-15: 1. Kartoes (8) Chisty 57, 2. Marco Polo (7) Selvaraj 57, 3. Regal Force (1) Darshan 57, 4. Salvador Dali (5) Allan 57, 5. Subah Ka Tara (4) Arshad 57, 6. My Lexicon (2) Suraj 55.5, 7. Nawabzaadi (3) 55.5 and 8. Orenda (6) Dhebe 55.5.
1. SUBAH KA TARA, 2. MY LEXICON, 3. SALVADOR DALI

6. F.K. IRANI MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 60 & above, 4-45: 1. Mickey Mouse (4) Srinath 63, 2. Pearl City (8) Suraj 56.5, 3. Amazing Redd (3) Dhebe 54, 4. Fair Game (2) Arshad 53, 5.

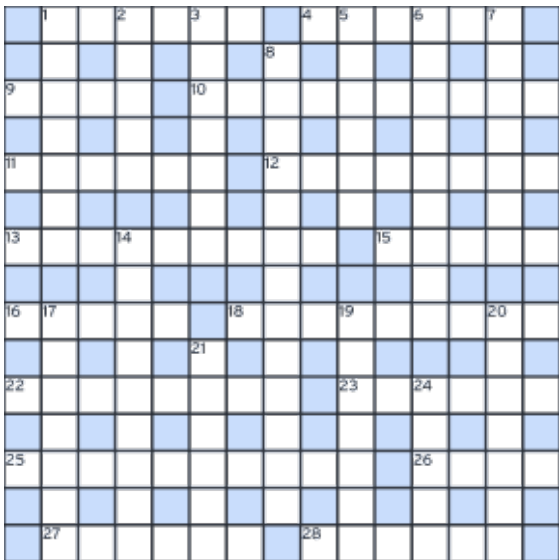
Gypsy (7) Allan 53, 6. El Fenix (6) Jagadeesh 51.5, 7. Surf Romance (5) Chisty 51 and 8. Force Ensign (1) Irvan 50.
1. PEARL CITY, 2. SURF ROMANCE, 3. GYPSY

7. KRISHNA RAJA SAGAR PLATE (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 5-y-o & over, 5-15: 1. Mistress Of Spice (5) Darshan 60, 2. Beyond Reach (4) Chisty 59.5, 3. Country's Bloom (2) Suraj 59.5, 4. Golden Success (7) Vivek 59.5, 5. Perfect King (1) Naveen 59.5, 6. Fine Barrior (9) Manjunath 59, 7. Star Line (3) Dhebe 57, 8. Desert Gold (6) Akram 56, 9. Perfectgoldenera (8) Sai Kiran 55, 10. Zala Princess (10) Arshad 54.5, 11. Island Pearl (12) Rajesh K 54 and 12. Vision Of The Sky (11) Rayan 53.
1. BEYOND REACH, 2. COUNTRY'S BLOOM, 3. MISTRESS OF SPICE

8. CHICKMAGALUR NIRVANAPPA SHETTY NANJAMMA TMP CUP (Div. II), (1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 5-y-o & over, 5-45: 1. Blue Blazer (4) Akram 60, 2. Lunar Storm (8) Darshan 59, 3. Purnerscor (6) Mudassar 59, 4. Wild Wild Angels (7) Chisty 59, 5. Florencia (2) Nayak 58.5, 6. Erdemir (9) Srinath 57.5, 7. Nimon (10) Chetan 57.5, 8. Raw Gold (12) Vivek 57.5, 9. Birchwood (1) A. Ramu 57, 10. Fiorenza (11) Anjar 57, 11. Happy Dancing (3) Sai Kiran 57 and 12. Likeknife (5) Rajesh K 54.5.
1. ERDEMI, 2. RAW GOLD, 3. WILD WILD ANGELS

Day's best: **SUBAH KA TARA** Double: **PINYADA — ERDEMI** Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (3): 3, 4 and 5; (ii): 6, 7 and 8.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12230



ACROSS

- 1 Accommodating one in factory (6)
- 4 Say regularly, she'd be unwilling (6)
- 9 Hides whisky equipment on Scottish island (4)
- 10 Drunken irate chaos at Irish parliament (10)

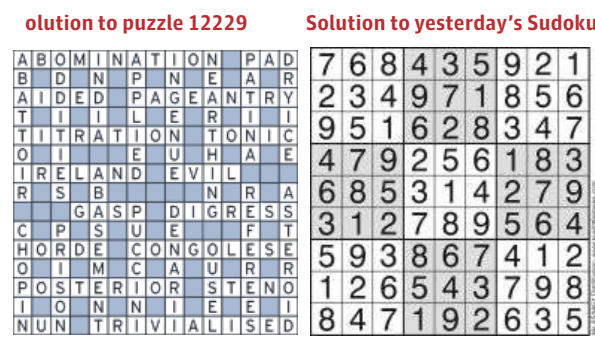
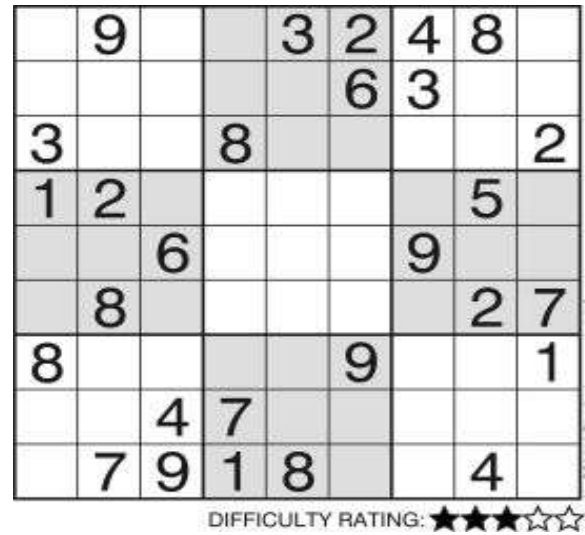
- 11 Members, irrational, surround chamber (6)
- 12 Monarch's taxes are high for long time (8)
- 13 Clocks German man at holiday property (9)
- 15 Mother protects first seed of South Africa tree (5)
- 16 Redacts, removes first clause from decrees (5)
- 18 Seeks votes for paintings featuring sun (9)
- 22 South Indian father to let out manifest (8)
- 23 Tramp leads odd aunt with rallying cry (6)
- 25 Handling professional tax with gin cocktail (10)
- 26 Shorten harbour (4)
- 27 Jobless in ship, moves sideways (6)
- 28 Hawk, at windows, say, is fair game (6)

DOWN

- 1 Damage, chip oak plant (3,4)

- 2 One boy returns without Eastern morals (5)
- 3 Tool makes one almost agile (7)
- 5 Possible to accommodate sailor in base (6)
- 6 Practices reel regularly at vehicles (9)
- 7 Red vase smashed by those who escape (7)
- 8 Frail newt ran to start commotion with sibling (9,4)
- 14 Charmed at gate by daughter (9)
- 17 Leaves from Spanish band, returns (7)
- 19 Faces six wise men (7)
- 20 Bishop formerly condescending, ends apology (7)
- 21 Tenant parks ship in shelter in the East (6)
- 24 Stranger to overdose with revolutionary Communist (5)

SUDOKU



FAITH

Slumber and meditation

A day is said to be divided into five parts for worship — abhigamana, upadaana, ijya, svaadhyaya and yoga. One has to get up early and prepare for worship (abhigamana). Upadaana means collecting all the materials needed for worship. Uncavritti, that is obtaining rice grains as bhiksha, is a part of upadaana. Ijya is actual worship of the Lord. Svaadhyaya is the study of the scriptures. Yoga means meditation and when we lie down to sleep, we should do so in an attitude of meditation.

There are rules governing how one lies down to sleep and how one should rise from bed, said Valayapet Ramachariar in a discourse. Before sitting down to eat, we should wash our feet. But we should not wipe our feet dry. Again, when we go to bed, we should wash our feet, but we must wipe them dry. We see how meticulously Lakshmana followed this rule. Before Rama goes to sleep in the forest, Lakshmana washes and wipes His feet.

But why should there be such rules regarding sleep? Sleep is when the atma reaches the Paramatma. In a state of deep slumber, the Jivatma loses its sense of identity and rests in the Paramatma. It does not mean that the Jivatma merges with the Paramatma. Nor is it the state where through jnana a Jivatma reaches the feet of the Paramatma. That is a permanent state. What happens during sleep is temporary. When the person wakes up, he gets back his sense of identity and his mind and indriyas begin to function again.

So, when one wakes up, one should not get up in a hurry. One should sit up as gently like a pregnant woman who is mindful of the baby she carries in her womb. One should sit up for a few minutes and only then should one rise.

IN BRIEF



Second World War bomb defused in Hong Kong

HONG KONG
A wartime bomb was defused in Hong Kong on Thursday after forcing a busy commercial district into lockdown, with and thousands evacuated from surrounding shops, hotels and offices. It is the second time within a week that an American bomb dropped during the Second World War has been discovered here. **AFP**



Minke whale population dying in Atlantic

MIAMI
U.S. marine investigators are probing an unusual die-off of minke whales along the U.S. east coast, marking the third such population of large whales in the past two years, officials said. A total of 28 minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) have died since January 2017 in the Atlantic Ocean from Maine to South Carolina. **AFP**



Standing for six hours a day may help lose weight

NEW YORK
Standing instead of sitting for six hours a day could help people lose weight, a study has found. Researchers found that standing burned 0.15 calories per minute more than sitting. The additional muscle activity is also linked to lower risk of heart attack and stroke, said researchers at Mayo Clinic, U.S. **IAN S**

Blood test for Alzheimer's shows early promise

Results were more than 90% accurate in a study of 370 people aged between 60 - 90 years in Australia and Japan

REUTERS
TOKYO/MELBOURNE

Researchers in Japan and Australia say they have made important progress in developing a blood test that could in future help doctors detect who might go on to get Alzheimer's disease.

In a study published in the journal *Nature*, the scientists said the test, which can detect a toxic protein known as amyloid beta, linked to Alzheimer's, was more than 90% accurate in research involving around 370 people.

Dementia, of which Alzheimer's is the most common form, affects close to 50 million people worldwide and is expected to affect more than 131 million by 2050, according to the non-profit campaign group Alzheimer's

Disease International.

Currently, doctors use brain scans or invasive cerebrospinal fluid testing, also known as a spinal tap, to try and see whether patients have a build-up of amyloid beta in the brain. But these tests are invasive, expensive and may only show results when the disease has already started to progress.

Despite decades of scientific research, there is no treatment that can slow the progression of Alzheimer's. Current drugs can do no more than ease some of the symptoms.

Having a simple, low-cost blood test could make it easier for pharmaceutical companies to find enough people at risk of developing Alzheimer's



An early test for Alzheimer's could help in making better drugs for therapy. **GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO**

to test potential new drugs to fight the disease, said Katsuhiko Yanagisawa, who co-led the study at the Japanese National Centre for Geriatrics and Gerontology. Since Alzheimer's disease

is thought to start developing years before patients have any symptoms of memory loss, experts say an important factor in finding an effective treatment will be the ability to accurately detect signs of the disease early.

"You have got to walk before you run. You have to learn to diagnose the disease directly before you can hope to see the effect of therapeutic intervention. And that's where the real value in this test will come," said Colin Masters, a professor at the University of Melbourne who co-led the research.

The study involved 252 Australian and 121 Japanese patients aged between 60 and 90 years.

Larger study needed

Scientists not directly involved in the study said it made an important step, but now needed to be replicated.

"If (it) can be repeated in a larger number of people, this test will give us an insight into changes occurring in the

brain that relate to Alzheimer's disease," said Mark Dallas, a lecturer in Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience at Britain's University of Reading.

Abdul Hye at Kings College London's Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience said the test was still a long way from being able to be used in doctors' clinics.

"The approach of obtaining the results is still very complicated (and) in its current form, the methodology is not practical in a clinical setting," he said.

John Hardy, a professor of neuroscience at University College London, said it was a "hopeful study which could have a very positive impact on diagnostic accuracy."

Goa's Shigmo parade starts on March 3

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PANAJI

Goa will hold the annual Shigmo float parade in its major cities from March 3 to 17. Shigmo is the traditional spring festival celebrated by farmers in rural Goa. It has been also made part of the tourism festival calendar in the State.

Nilesh Cabral, MLA and Chairman of State-owned Goa Tourism Development Corporation Limited said that this year, a spectacular display of Goan ethnicity and mythology will be on show. The Shigmo float parades will be held in Ponda on March 3, Margao on March 4, Vasco on March 5, Panaji on March 10 and then move to other cities till March 17.

Super Mario ready for leap into animated film

Miyamoto collaborating with Illumination Entertainment

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TOKYO

Japan's Nintendo on Thursday said it was working on an anime movie starring its iconic video game character Super Mario in collaboration with the U.S. studio behind the *Despicable Me* series.

Shigeru Miyamoto, the renowned game creator of "Super Mario Bros" and "Donkey Kong" at the Kyoto-based video game giant, has been working with Chris Meledandri at Illumination Entertainment to produce the Mario anime.

"People have told me making games is similar to making movies and I've been flattered by people saying things like 'If you can make a game, you can make



a movie'," Mr. Miyamoto told reporters in Tokyo.

"But they are totally different," said the creator who has some previous experience

in directing short movies. "One is interactive and the other is a passive experience," he said, noting filmmaking requires filmmaking experts and Mr. Meledandri was an "experienced producer".

In the past decade, Mr. Meledandri has produced the *Despicable Me* series, *The Secret Life of Pets* and other box-office hits.

Mr. Miyamoto said he and Mr. Meledandri had already made progress in production though the release date is yet to be fixed. Once done, the film will be distributed by Universal Pictures, Mr. Miyamoto said. Nintendo has said it was planning to release a new Mario Kart title for smartphones soon.

Everest: Nepal losing out to China

Foreign operators, citing lax attitude to safety, are shifting to the north side

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KATHMANDU

Poor regulation and overcrowding are pushing Everest climbers away from Nepal to China, which is investing millions to boost a rival path to the top of the world.

Veteran climbing outfits, fed up with what they regard as a lax attitude to safety on Nepal's southern flank of the 8,848 metre peak, are starting to shift operations to Everest's north side in Tibet.

"The south side is way too overcrowded with inexperienced people," Phil Crampton, a seasoned Everest hand who announced in January that his company Altitude Junkies would shift to China, the third such outfit to abandon Nepal in recent years.

The exodus could dent a long-standing source of revenue for the cash-strapped Himalayan nation - Kathmandu raked in more than \$4 million in Everest permits fees alone in 2017.

A growing chorus of foreign-led Everest operators in Nepal are demanding greater scrutiny of low-cost outfits that have mushroomed in recent years, offering cheap expeditions up the fabled summit.

These budget players are luring hordes of amateur climbers chasing the thrill of Everest but also risking death and injury, climbing experts say, warning that some expedition leaders are ill-equipped to tackle the



The Everest range seen from Tengboche, 300 km north-east of Kathmandu. **AFP**

roomed in recent years, offering cheap expeditions up the fabled summit.

These budget players are luring hordes of amateur climbers chasing the thrill of Everest but also risking death and injury, climbing experts say, warning that some expedition leaders are ill-equipped to tackle the

peak. Those pushing for change want to see permit numbers curbed and greater oversight of guides and operators.

"What has happened over the last few years on the south side is absolutely intolerable," said Lukas Furtenbach, whose company Furtenbach Adventures relocated to China last year citing safety concerns.

Nepal introduced new laws in late December barring solo climbers, blind mountaineers and double amputees from scaling Everest, restrictions it said would make the peak safer.

But many mountaineers say the rules miss the mark.

"Nepal needs mountaineering rules and regulations. But for the operators, not for the climbers," said Mr. Furtenbach.

CHANAKYA IAS ACADEMY™

A Unit of CHANAKYA ACADEMY FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING PVT. LTD.

25 Years of Excellence, Extraordinary Results every year, 4000+ selections in IAS, IFS, IPS and other Civil Services so far...



CHANAKYA
IAS ACADEMY

Nurturing Leaders of Tomorrow

SINCE-1993



FREE SEMINAR ON
THE ART of SUCCESS™
for
Civil Services Examination
by
Success Guru AK Mishra
and Successful Candidates



VENUE

CHANAKYA IAS ACADEMY™

(Now Also at Rajendra Nagar)

Level 5, Plot No. 3B, Rajendra Park, Pusa Road, Next to Rajendra Place Metro Station, Gate No. 4, Delhi-60

Date: 3rd February-2018 | Time: 3:00 PM-6:00 PM

To reserve your seat

Call: 9599189564, 8448592065

CENTRAL DELHI BRANCH: Level 5, Plot No. 3B, Rajendra Park, Pusa Road, Next to Rajendra Place Metro Station, Gate No. 4, Delhi-60, Ph: 8447314445

NORTH DELHI BRANCH: 1596, Ground Floor, Outram Lines, Kingsway Camp, Opp. Sewa Kutir Bus Stand, Near GTB Nagar Metro Station Gate No.2, Delhi-09, Ph: 9811671844/ 45

HO/ SOUTH DELHI BRANCH: 124, 2nd Floor, Satya Niketan, Opp. Venkateswara College, Near Dhaura Kuan, Delhi-21, Ph: 9971989980/ 81 | www.chanakyaiasacademy.com

OUR BRANCHES

Allahabad: 9721352333 | Ahmedabad: 7574824916 | Bhubaneswar: 9078878233 | Chandigarh: 8288005466 | Dhanbad: 9771463546 | Faridabad: 8860403403 | Guwahati: 8811092481 | Hazaribagh: 9771869233 | Indore: 8818896686

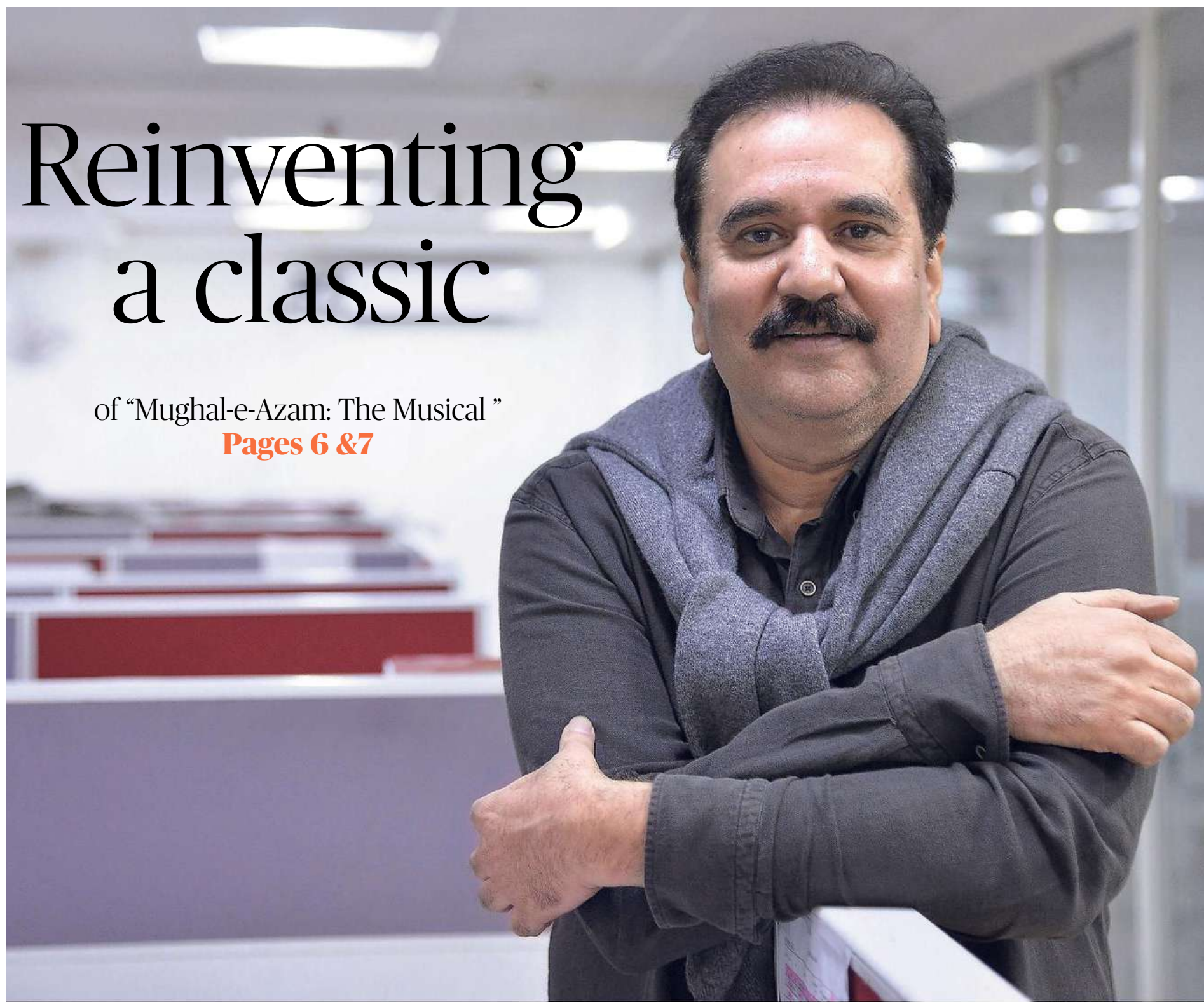
Jammu: 8715823063 | Jaipur: 9680423137 | Kochi: 7561829999 | Mangaluru: 7022350035 | Patna: 8252248158 | Pune: 9067975862 | Ranchi: 9204950999 | Rohtak: 8930018881 | Srinagar: 9599224341



Reinventing a classic

of “Mughal-e-Azam: The Musical ”

Pages 6 & 7



■ V. SUDERSHAN

The western influence



Tracing how and why Indian dance-dramas were referred to as ballets

P4

odest man, majestic voice



Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan, who was recently conferred Padma Vibhushan talks about his musical journey **P9**

inding elegance in scrap



Poets Lalit Magotra and Darshan Darshi are espousing the cause of Dogri language through their imaginative works **P11**

The end of an era



Supriya Devi will be remembered for her image of a strong woman, both on and off screen **P12**

TIME OUT



Nicholas Packard

INDIA HABITAT CENTRE

FEBRUARY 2

GULMOHAR

7 p.m. Talk on "The Unity of Consciousness" by American-born Nicholas Packard, author of "Riding the Dark Horse". He will discuss how our soul has been undermined by traditional Western perceptions of truth and reality and how we can lead spiritually fulfilling lives and in harmony with nature.

INDIA HABITAT CENTRE

FEBRUARY 2

OPEN PALM COURT GALLERY

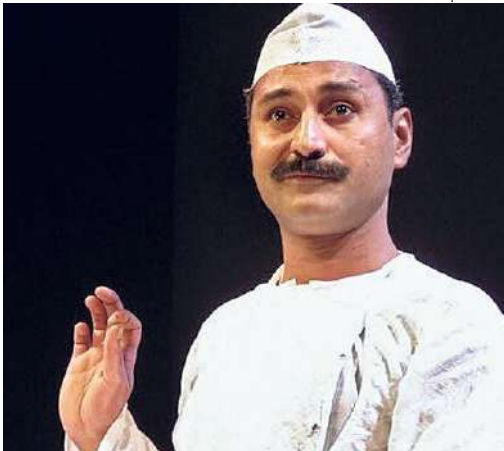
"Of Miles and Me" - a photo travelogue; a third solo photography exhibition by Nipun Nayyar. "Transcending Jerusalem: JLM through Indian Lenses" - a group photography exhibition by Indian and Israeli artists

INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

FEBRUARY 2

DESHMUKH AUDITORIUM

ArtEast is an initiative to raise pertinent questions through a series of engagement on art, livelihood, social justice, climate change, communication, history - past and present, issues that have a far reaching impact on everyday life of people and of the nation. The festival includes talks/discussions, exhibitions, film screenings and performances



Mahmood Farooqui

INDIA HABITAT CENTRE

FEBRUARY 3

STEIN AUDITORIUM

7 p.m. Theatre "Dastan-e KarnAz Mahabharata", written and performed by Mahmood Farooqui. An Anusha Rizvi production, this Dastangoi presentation on Karna draws on the original Mahabharata as well as Persian, Urdu, Hindi and Marathi writings.

INDIA HABITAT CENTRE

FEBRUARY 3

AMALTAS

7 p.m. Musical event featuring solo Hindustani vocal performances rendered by Arijit Roy. It will be followed by Saptak Chatterjee.

INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

FEBRUARY 3

GANDHI-KING MEMORIAL PLAZA

11 a.m. Lecture demonstration by Rida Gatphoh - singer, writer and the musical folks. A musical storytelling session followed by story of instruments, skit and the craft of creating.



Pandit Rajan and Sajan Mishra in accompaniment with tabla maestro Kumar Bose ■ AVISHEK DEY

Magnetic chemistry at play

The Kolkata chapter of "Bhairav Se Bhairavi Tak" saw Pandit Rajan and Sajan Mishra in sublime form

MEENA BANERJEE

Traditions are now being determined and standardised by urban culture which swears by thrilling permutations of speed, shorn of emotive coloration offered by raga-music. But Indian philosophy and science establish the source and destination of Indian music in Nature; mythical characters like Shiva, Saraswati and Krishna further support this viewpoint. Gradually, the Time Scale theory of raga-music crystallised from the devotion-charged temple music of ancient India. This, deep philosophy based theory, restricts a cluster of ragas to a certain time zone of a day of 24 hours, divided in eight 'prahara's, each having three hours. Several important aspects of this tradition are now being determined and standardised by urban culture in the present state of metropolitan confinement. The essence of this musical tradition is at stake because morning sessions of raga-music are very rare to find nowadays; and as such, the ragas belonging to these time zones are becoming rarer.

The concept of 'Bhairav se Bhairavi Tak' takes in its fold all the ragas belonging to every zone of the entire day; and also the entire world! Because its proponents are none else than Pandit Rajan

and Sajan Mishra along with tabla maestro Kumar Bose and veteran harmonium expert Sumit Mishra; who have set out on a world tour beginning from Benares, their gharana's birthplace and the city that cradled it to its peak. Allahabad, the holy city of Triveni was their first halt on their way to Kolkata, the cultural capital of India and the city of palaces that patronised music of all genres for centuries. Evidently 'Jorasan-ko Thakurbari', Tagore's ancestral house in old Calcutta, was chosen as the venue and early evening to late evening zone for the chosen ragas' playground in the sprawling courtyard of the historical building.

Rare raga

Before the golden winter's early evening became copper, the maestros began with Hansakinkini, a rarely heard raga (sporting both the Gandhars and komal Nishad) with a poignant phrase (GMg,Rn.SRg-) as its haunting identity. Supported by Pandit Kumar Bose's musical tabla, the medium-paced jhaptal composition unfurled the raga at leisure.

A Teental tarana followed by a few sparkling taans of varied grains. Both the compositions had their sam (first beat of the tala cycle that also highlights the most important swara of the raga) on

shuddh Gandhar. Immediately after the pivotal sam another teental composition 'Sab sakhiyan mil', with its sam on komal Gandhar and emphasis on nSgS-adorned phrases, introduced another infrequently heard raga Dhani, dramatically!

In tandem

The elaboration accommodated a few heavy gamak taans and very quietly turned towards 'Jhoothi dekhi preet', a Kirwani based bhajan. The magnetic chemistry between the maestros and their accompanists took it all to the level of sheer bliss.

The late evening session under the open sky, despite the chilly weather, saw numerous fans and students of music glued to their seats. The vocalist-duo settled down with Nand (Anandi Kalyan), a raga that offers a limited range due to its meandering, rather complex gait. But the veterans opened up new vistas during its systematic elaboration rooted in loving meend-laden note-combinations interspersed with swinging laya-chhanda and stimulating taan-sargams. After the vilambit ektal khayal, they moved on to a medium-paced ektal bandish before singing 'Ajahun na aaye' set to Teental. The pathos ridden bol-banavs around 'Bahut din beete' were almost unbearably intense when the

aakar taans came as a relief! And, as is the favourite technique of Rajan-ji, in the same breath the melody took a smooth turn towards raga Kamod by simply shifting the accent and gait of the same notes! They sang two beautiful traditional compositions 'Eri jaane na doongi' and 'Ritu Basant sakhi'.

Both these ragas actually do not allow ample skill-show - much to the discontent of the 'thrilling skill'-oriented listenership of this era; and yet their truthful adherence to the Naayaki, sans extra frills, highlighted the intrinsic beauty of the ragas to such an extent that it captivated all. Ignoring the chill and heavy evening dew, encores poured in for a Jaijaiwanti tarana. The masters obliged, keeping the swaying gait of the raga in their medium-paced Ektal composition. The superb chemistry between the vocals and tabla churned out delighting saath-sangat at every given opportunity. The harmonium gave its best in the concluding dadra "Chala pardesiya naina laga ke". The masters dedicated this to the late thumri queen Girija Devi, who would sing it with great passion.

(As part of the ongoing world tour series, Pandit Rajan and Sajan Mishra will perform on February 4 at 10 a.m. at IGNC, New Delhi)

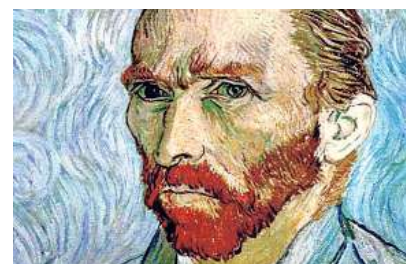
Legend in art

A group show, "A Cafe Exposition: Reliving Van Gogh" featuring works of Mahbubur Rahman, Seema Kohli and Tyeba Lipi will be held at India International Centre in Delhi from February 12 to 17.

Seema Kohli will showcase her paintings, sculptures in the show which is an

ode to the Dutch painter. While Tyeba Lipi works in Dhaka on paintings and sculptures, Mahbubur Rahman is a pioneer in Bangladesh of cross-media approach.

Seema says, "Vincent van Gogh, the artist and van Gogh the person were totally intertwined. As a young artist, I was exposed to a few European artists in which his art stole my attention."



A visually stimulating experience

While Om Katare's "Ramleela" highlights lack of patronage for performing arts, Bipin Kumar's "Hami Nai Aafai Aaf" expresses the agony and ecstasy of a couple in forbidden love

DIWAN SINGH BAJELI

Kusum Kumar, the recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi's Award for 2016 for her contribution to playwriting in Hindi, has written eight full length plays and out of these some of her plays, including "Suno Sefali", "Dilli Ooncha Sunti Hai" and "Ravanleela", were staged at different points of time by amateur groups in the Capital. "Suno Sefali" is a bitter critique of the Indian caste system. "Dilli Ooncha Sunti Hai" is a severe indictment of bureaucratic red-tapism. "Ramleela", which was presented by Yatri at the Festival of Performing Arts featuring the recipients of the Akademi Awards 2016, is a comic exposure on the problems faced by the organisers of "Ramleela" and performers in mofussil areas. Organised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the play was staged



A scene from "Hum Hi Apna Aap"

at Mavlankar Hall, New Delhi recently.

Lack of patronage

After facing a great deal of problems, the organiser is able to stage "Ramleela". The episode they are staging enacts Ravana's confrontation with Hanuman followed by his encounter with Angad, culminating in the victory of Rama over Ravana. As the title suggests, the character of Ravan is the cynosure of all eyes. His flamboyant and vain style of delivery and movements make him a source of comedy. He keeps on stepping out of his character to demand adequate amount for his performance and threatens to stop performing

his role. He declares again and again that he needs money to repair the roof of his house through which water seeps whenever it rains. The organiser expresses utter inability to meet his demand. As the actor playing the role of Ravan stops acting, the audience starts shouting. Through the satirical treatment of the characters of "Ramleela", the play seeks to comment on the sad plight of actors and lack of patronage for performing arts.

Designed and directed by Om Katare, the production suffers from amateurish flaws. The properties are placed in a manner that made the production cluttered. However, Om Katare as Ravan,

both within the character and out of the character of Ravan, imparts the production with comic rhythm.

Artistic take

One of the awardees for the contribution to the Indian theatre as director is Bipin Kumar under whose direction "Hami Nai Aafai Aaf" ("Hum Hi Apna Aap") in Nepali was presented at the festival of performing arts by the Sikkim Theatre Training Centre, National School of Drama at Mavlankar Hall. The play is inspired by Padma Sachdev's novel in Dogri titled "Ab Na Banegi Dehari". The stage version is written by Asif Ali Haider Khan and it is translated into Nepali by

Jagdish Sharma and jointly rewritten by Bikram Lepcha and Hasta Kr. Chettri. In fact, the present version is a revival of the earlier one presented some years ago in Delhi. The present version appears to be deftly fine-tuned with innovative design which is sleek capturing the temple architecture of Sikkim in a symbolic way which also provides the backdrop for the action. A blend of choreography, music and theme, the production creates an artistic whole.

Based on this novel, Kshitij presented this novel in Hindi under the direction of Bharti Sharma about a decade ago. Her style was realistic with emphasis on characterisation and revealing the philosophical kernel of the play in an unambiguous way. Bipin's presentational style is stylised with slight touches of realism at places. He does not merely depend on dialogue as an expressive means, uses visuals with long pieces of fabrics in different colours which are transformed into spectacles with subtle lighting effects by Himanshu Joshi.

These visuals infuse the production with metaphoric substance. One of the highlights of the production is music score by veteran stage music director Kajal Ghosh who has drawn on the rich folk tradition of Sikkim. For the right effects, he has used a variety of musical instru-

ments. The melody of flute stands out for its deep emotional impact on the audience. In mass scenes, the performers in masks, creating multiple choreographic patterns against the backdrop of variety of colours, evoke surrealistic atmosphere, expressing the inner ecstasy and agony of two young people fallen in forbidden love, giving birth to a child.

The play depicts the pathetic life of Rewati whose husband dies when she is young and full of dreams of a romantic life. Unable to suffer the ignominy of being a widow, she makes an attempt to commit suicide. However, she is saved by Giri Baba, the charming and young head priest of a temple who is worshipped and adored by a huge following for his spiritual authority and moral standard.

The entire production is aptly cast, with Bikram Lepcha as Giri Baba who brings to the fore the inner conflict of his character. By casting a live actor as the idol of god, the conflict between Giri Baba's natural instinct for love and his duty to abstain from worldly pleasures is revealed in a subtle manner against the backdrop of tense silence. Ranjana Manger as Rewati creates the portrait of a stigmatised widow with an infant determined to lead all alone an independent life with deft strokes.

Reaching out to the sublime

Divya Goswami sensitively portrayed different moods of the Lord in her Kathak recital

RANEE KUMAR

Certain artistes aim beyond the art for art's sake. Divya Goswami Dikshit belongs to this category of artistes who look upon their medium as means to a higher end. And to her credit it must be admitted that she is able to achieve her objective through Kathak dance – an art form which is technique-oriented though it originated as an artistic tool to propagate bhakti (devotion). Using both the ancient and medieval mode of Kathak, the dancer related to the sublime in her own unique manner

drawing her audience along with her in her journey.

Yes, it was an artistic voyage for all of us sitting there in the India International Centre auditorium as Divya softly led us through the Shiv Aradhana (invocation) in vilambit set to Desh. Attired in pristine white and gold costume, she moved swaying with her serpent mudra depicting a hooded cobra that adorns Lord Shiva – the cosmic dancer, creator, preserver and destroyer – all in one! Her abhinaya literally spelt out the attributes and potency of the omnipotent God in a myriad ways. The movements and mime was sedate and sublime delving into the depths of emotion. The viewers went along soaked in the expressive power of the Lord she so sensitively portrayed. The varied abhinaya for "Trinayana" (three-eyed) was something to write home about. Then steadily the tem-

po swelled to the second speed when her feet began to translate what earlier her gestures and countenance expressed.

Seamless musical recital

The second phase was the footwork delineation in the taal Dhamar, a la Drupad musical style, this being the Lucknow gharana to which Divya belongs. Her excellent sense of rhythm was praiseworthy. Unlike many others of her age, it was not just the footwork show to various complex beats but also a corresponding sway in body kinetics which enhanced the pure dance bestowing it with liveliness. Her wrist and palm movement to rhythm without the hand moving automatically was something of creditable artistry that was very impressive. The "veera rasa" which this particular piece was supposed to evoke being its innate nature, was shown through mere footwork,



Divya Goswami

within the precincts of this taal where the 14 matras are in the 5-2-3-4 symmetry with the one, six and eleven being done to tali (clap) and the beat eight is indicated by the khali (wave of the hand). The technical brilliance of her dance (Anagat) precluding the bandish (Misrachapu). She played out her chakkars to single mnemonic to preci-

sion like the needles of a clock. The entire dance was like a seamless music recital. The Ashtapadi "Dheera Sameere..." got its best interpretation in Kathak in Divya's hands. The state of mind of both the nayika (Radha) and nayaka (Krishna) was brought out with sensitivity and clarity – a subdued shringara that did not overstep the fine line

that divides the erotic from the vulgar. Though the dancer did emot to the meaning of the line "Rati Sukha Saare...Prathama Samagama..." a little later, her initial flute-wielding gestures and dance as this line of the song was flowing through was a little confusing!

Finally somewhere after the third refrain she did sensitively portray the sensuousness of the lines, but then it somehow looked misplaced in the scheme of things. The detailing of Krishna's mesmerising flute notes as flowing through the winds into the ears of Radhika was very picturesque as was the decking of a bed of fragrant flowers – testimonials to the artiste's descriptive powers through dance alone. Despite a feeble pandhant by Neha Chauhan, Govind Chakraborty on tabla, Kiran Kumar on flute, Anil Kumar on sarangi and Khushal Sharma lending the vocal support made for a compelling orchestra on stage.



The Piano Man

What is the yardstick?

Why are there few Carnatic musicians among the Padma awardees?

NIL SRINIVASAN



It is 1 a.m. and I am still at a studio. As a performer, composer and player for 'sessions' (playing for others' compositions), my life and times are sufficiently crazy. In between these are intervals where I have to answer several existential questions. To Aadhaar or not. To GST or not. To respond to comments on my newly launched television show. To eat. And unfortunately in that order.

Indeed, I am left pondering if there is any silence left. Opening my phone necessarily means being hit by a barrage of opinions, views disguised as facts and an endless eddy of minutiae. And it's no use asking us to turn our phones or applications off. We would unfortunately lose vital links to practical livelihood.

One question that popped up in my newsfeed intrigued me. Why are there not more Carnatic musicians in this year's Padma awards? Indeed. Amidst an eight-month infant that got brutally raped in the nation's capital and the row over *Padmaavat* and *Andaal*, this year's civilian honours did not seem to create the same buzz as they usually do.

A deeper reflection on this made me realise the inherent entitlement surrounding this question. Other than the fact that there are veterans in the field who are actually being honoured (the Rudrapatnam brothers), why does Carnatic music alone de-

serve treatment as a separate field of endeavour?

This year we have seen one of our greatest film composers, who came up the hard way, get Padma Vibhushan. We have seen a research scholar (Vijayalakshmi Navaneethakrishnan), who has devoted her life to folk music get a Padma Sri.

And yet there seems little reflection on the fact that all of these fit into the broader spectrum simply called 'music.' What is more, the awardees are individuals, who not merely performed, but have contributed significantly to the vocabulary, grammar and promulgation of their chosen musical styles. And impacted millions of others through their oeuvre.

Why do classical musicians expect exclusive classification and treatment? Is it a privilege that one is entitled to or are there larger questions that one needs to address?

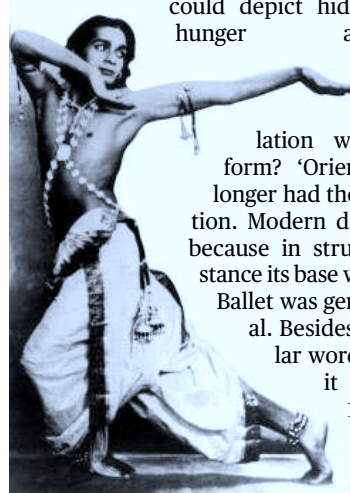
For instance, how can contribution be measured? Arguably not everyone contributes to social condition or justice nor has to. But surely artistic contribution should be more than just a busy calendar of performances or research papers. What about significant additions to the art itself – its practice, its repertoire, its very scope?

So I leave you with this question. What should the criteria be to bestow national honours upon an artiste?

The writer is a well known pianist and music educator based in Chennai

awardees of 2017 after the investiture ceremony

Shankar's works were popular in the West. Seen here with George Harrison and (below) at a performance



This Thing Called Culture

By our ballet critic!

Why were Indian dance dramas referred to as ballets?

ASHISH MOHAN KHOKAR



Imagine, 50 years ago, dance critics were called ballet critics, when they wrote reviews. How and why did this reference come

about?

It was in 1830 that the first 'ballet' on an Indian theme was done. 'Le Dieu et la Bayadere – The God and the Dancing Girl'.

It was choreographed by Filippo Taglioni, father of great ballerina Marie Taglioni, and first performed in Paris in October 1830. Clearly, West knew of temple dancing girls as the devadasis were known then in the West. In 1877, another ballet on the same theme, *La Bayadere* was produced in Russia. It was choreographed by iconic ballet master Marius Petipa and was first time performed in the famous Maryinsk Theatre in St. Petersburg. The pivotal role in *La Bayadere* was undertaken by Marie Taglioni and later by Anna Pavlova.

So what is ballet as an art form? If Indian dance is known today universally it is due to this format that was widely popularised by the West in the last few centuries. Ballet is a group classical dance with music, no dialogue, major scenography and choreography. These are four important and different ingredients. Add, Indian democratic way of doing things: a sutradhar or a counter point.

Classical dancing pushed to the back under a long colonial rule, had a revival through mythological and historical productions all through the last century. How best to use our classical forms in group art form was inbuilt in Kathakali and Yakshagana traditions but both had dialogue. To use Kathak or Bharatanatyam in a story line, linear or otherwise, was a challenge for traditional masters or nattuvu-nars.

This ballet format also helped eschew strictly classical structure and language and helped go beyond the routine stories of kings and gods; saints and sinners. Ballet could depict hidden themes of hunger and greed; humans and even animals.

What appellation would suit this form? 'Oriental Dance' no longer had the same connotation. Modern dance it was not because in structure and substance its base was still classical.

Ballet was generic and general. Besides, it was a popular word worldwide. So it stuck. From 1930s to 1980s the word has been used liberally.



The second 'Indian ballet' to be produced in the West was 'Lalla Rookh', also called the 'Rose of Lahore'. It was inspired by Thomas Moore's oriental romance of the former name and first produced in London in 1846. Its choreography was by Jules Perrot. Then in 1858 came Kalidas' 'Shakuntala.' This was based on the book by Theophile Gautier and choreographed by Lucien Petipa, brother of the famous Marius Petipa. This was premiered in Paris. So one sees major destinations – Paris, London, Moscow – taking to themes Indian even before India had.

Indian dance aesthetics

In 1899 came 'Talisman' and its original story included Akbar, the King of Delhi; Damayanti the King's daughter. Nouredin the Maharaja of Lahore and Amravati, goddess of Heavenly Spirits! The cultural mish mash was complete with total disregard to real history. 'Talisman' was followed by 'Scheherazade', based on a tale in *Thousand and One Nights*. It was first produced in Paris of 1910 and choreographed by Michel Fokine, music by Rimsky-Korsakov and decor by Leon Bakst. The scenography separated ballet from Indian classical dance aesthetics, which is high on the art of suggestivity.

In western ballet, direct depiction of a scene, with elaborate sets, became its hallmark. Sets by masters like Sergei Diaghilev find mention in later works of Indian pioneers like Ram Gopal.

What Ram and Uday Shankar did 1930s onwards were ballets. The content was Indian. The aesthetics were western. Remember, they were catering mostly to European audiences and once successful there, were celebrated in India.

Their success helped many reach out. Ananda Shivram to Australia with Louise Lightfoot. Guru gopinath with Ragini Devi to the U.S. Madame Menaka from Bombay to Berlin. Sadhana Bose in 1941 created 'Bhookh' on the Bengal famine. In 1944, Zohra and Kameshwar Segal produced 'Reptile', a work on the divide-and-rule policy of the British. At about the same time of national upsurge came in 1942, the Indian People's Theatre Association or IPTA. And IRA (Indian Renaissance Artists). Together they created many outstanding ballet works. These included 'The Spirit of India', 'India Immortal' and 'The Discovery of India.'

All these ballets were in Uday Shankar style. Only Ram Gopal used mostly Bharatanatyam and Madame Menaka, Kathak. It must be pointed out that slowly Indians deviated from the original and created their own genre. Operatic ballets, Madame Menaka the example. Songs were rendered by singers or dancers themselves (this was never the case with and in western ballet) and scenography was done away with. Rukmini Devi followed this at Kalakshetra with many productions and soon ballet became dance-drama. Which is what Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Melam traditions were anyway to begin with.

After Independence, the word 'ballet' became so popular that dancers named their groups after it: Shanti and Gul Bardhan's *Little Ballet Troupe* (Gwalior then Bhopal); Sachin Shankar *Ballet Unit* (Bombay). And so it goes.

The writer, a critic and historian, is the author of several books and edits attenDance, a yearbook

Rising Star



Sathvikaa Shankar enjoys being an Apsaras Arts company artiste and a solo performer

LAVANYA NARAYANAN

She has been away from her new Singaporean home for over a month now. The Margazhi frenzy in Chennai may have died down, but Sathvikaa Shankar's season is just beginning. She has spent the last few weeks in guru Anita Guha's home, preparing for her upcoming solos, even while participating in the group productions that her guru is known for. She says that it feels exactly like it always has over the last 19 years, ever since she began training under Anita Guha.

"I jumped at the first chance of learning from her," Sathvikaa reminisces. All of six years old, she found a second family in her classmates, a group of young dancers who continue to perform together till date.

Discovering the art

She spent the next six years discovering the art form, often juggling school with rehearsals for nritya natakams. Essaying diverse roles, the experience held Sathvikaa in good stead, preparing her not only for her arangetram at age 12, but also receiving the Bala Shri award through PSBB Nungambakkam at age 13. It was the first time the award was conferred upon a dancer from Chennai.

"I began to take my art seriously; improving my technique by imbibing the finer aspects," she says. While solos enhanced Sathvikaa's margam skills, the dance dramas had her portraying mas-

culine roles, exploring a new array of body language that gave Sathvikaa a peek into her guru's vision as a dramatist.

As Sathvikaa continued to perform, she pursued commerce and eventually, completed chartered accountancy.

"The balance was enjoyable. Rehearsals would break the monotony of studying and re-energise when exams came," she recalls.

It's a balance that Sathvikaa no longer needs to strike. Now a full-time company dancer with Singapore's Apsaras Arts, she is a part of to a group of dancers that works to merge different styles in large-scale productions, performed almost every weekend.

"It's amazing to see that each dancer's style has its own beauty. We just respond to each other on stage. Often, the result is magical," she smiles.

The shift, Sathvikaa says, has been a smooth one, attributing it completely to the training methodology of her guru. "She has trained us to be versatile by making us perform different roles over the years."

Now, Sathvikaa's style has become a blend of her guru's Kalakshetra pattern and her understanding of bhava. And Apsaras has added another dimension to her art.

"It's such a joy to be in Chennai. This is where it all began and this is where I realised art is my calling," she says before rushing to another session of rehearsal.

Raag Taal Gharana

Patriarch of the Patiala gharana

Bade Ghulam Ali Khan's impeccable gayaki set a glorious musical tradition

JYOTI NAIR

The Patiala Kasoor Gharana's glory can be ascribed to Bade Ghulam Ali Khan Sahib, whose musical genius came to represent a style characterised by intense emotional expressions, with romance striking a dominant note. As a result of his training under his father Ali Baksh Kasoorwale and uncle Kale Khan, who learnt dhrupad from Behram Khan of Jaipur, khayal from Mubarak Ali of Jaipur, Tanras Khan of Delhi and Haddu Khan of Gwalior, his variegated legacy made Bade Ghulam Ali Khan the undisputed voice. Even three decades after his death, the gharana is identified with him. Bade Ghulam Ali Khan Sahib, who began his illustrious journey as a sarangi artiste, was known for his effortless rendition, clear enunciation and a range spanning three octaves. The thumri ang of Benares, evolving as it did as a Punjabi ang and the tappa gamaks of Gwalior came through beautifully in his khayals.

Today the gharana bears the stamp of his gayaki. His legacy was carried forward by his son Munawar Ali Khan, whose gayaki was influenced more by his uncle Barkat Ali Khan. Bade Ghulam Ali Khan would refer to Barkat as "the magician of thumri", though he himself was the last word in it.

Munawar's son Raza Ali Khan alongwith Mazhar Ali Khan and Jawad Ali Khan, the grandsons of Karamat Ali Khan, the brother of Bade Ghulam Ali Khan Sahib, who migrated to Pakistan, kept the family tradition alive. Fateh Ali, grandson of Ali Baksh, is a Patiala gharana singer settled in Pakistan "whose voice has the richness and the mellifluousness of the founder", according to Sandeep Bagchi (*Nad - Understanding Raga Music*). Another bold and beautiful singer of this gharana is Begum Parveen Sultana.

"Today's Patiala gayaki is unmistakably the Patiala Kasoor gayaki passed on to artistes through the ganda-bandh disciples of Bade Ghulam Ali Khan Sahib, such as Pandit Prasun Banerjee and Vidushi Meera Banerjee," says Pt. Shantanu Bhattacharyya, a well-known vocalist of the gharana.

Pt. Ajoy Chakrabarty, a stalwart of the gharana trained under Munawar Ali Khan and Pt. Jnan Prakash Ghosh. His daughter Kaushiki has emerged as a fine singer too.

Elaborating on the legacy, Pt. Shantanu Bhattacharyya brought to light how Bade Ghulam Ali Khan Sahib's gayaki is the synthesis of



four gharanas – Agra, Jaipur, Kirana and Gwalior. The transcendental and extensive expansion of the swaras in alap was something divine in his gayaki. He further augmented it with meru khand taans of Kirana, two swar danas of Jaipur and voice structure and voice akaar of Agra and Gwalior.

Temperament of a painter

Apart from the openness of the voice, the sargams are rendered aesthetically. Akaars, bol banaavs

and bolbants exhibit the temperament of a painter. Each phrase is rendered like colouring a picture – vivid with imagery. There are certain features of this gharana that surface suddenly. Taans and boltaans can intersperse the bandish. There is an element of unpredictability.

This point is also endorsed by Sandeep Bagchi in the *Nad - Understanding Raga Music*, "the unexpected note-combinations appeared to have been put in for effects sake, as they were not fundamental to the raga.

Adds Shantanu, "they play to the rhythm and with the rhythm. The subdivision of rhythm – the matras and mini-matras are recognised. There is an interplay between rhythm and melody – invariably, an imagery is created. The tabla bols set the pace, the bandish is presented on the tone set by the tabla."

The singers show a penchant for pentatonic ragas like Malkauns Bhupali and Gunkali. The other raga popular with the gharana singers are Darbari Kanhra, Ramkali, Shuddha Kalyan and Bageshree.

Some of the up and coming singers of the gharana and disciples of Pt. Ajoy Chakrabarty and Shantanu Bhattacharyya are Mira Sengupta, Brajeshwar Mukherjee, Deborshee Bhattacharya, Durba Bhattacharyya, Arghya Chakravorty, Imandas and Mitra Bhattacharyya.

Today's Patiala gayaki is unmistakably the Patiala Kasur gayaki passed on to the artistes of today through the direct disciples of Bade Ghulam Ali Khan Sahib, such as Pandit Prasun Banerjee and Vidushi Meera Banerjee — Pt. Shantanu Bhattacharyya

A paeon to the syncretic culture

As “Mughal-e-Azam: The Musical” returns to Delhi, seasoned theatre director Feroz Abbas Khan talks about the inclusive nature of the classic, and the looming threat of self-censorship in creative domain

ANUJ KUMAR

At a time when a section of society is getting offended even by imagined history, Feroz Abbas Khan is back in Delhi with his magnum opus, “Mughal-e-Azam: The Musical”. An adaptation of K.Asif’s timeless tale about Mughal emperor Akbar who becomes a villain in the love story of his son Salim and courtesan Anarkali, the story continues to draw audience across generations. Like “Padmaavat”, “Mughal-e-Azam” also has historical characters woven into a fictional narrative. Khan says sometimes the line between history and hysteria gets blurred. Citing the example of Akira Kurosawa’s “Rashomon”, Khan remarks, “When truth could have five dimensions, imagine how many dimensions can history have. People become emotionally attached to certain figures. It almost becomes like I will decide what my daughter will wear. But once a constitutional body has decided, everybody should accept. Contesting ideas should be welcomed but all protests should stop short of violence. The *maryada* of debate has to be maintained.”

Cultural legacy

Referring to continued protests against “Padmaavat”, Khan says, “See, politics narrows the idea of imagination and a shrill voice is not always the right or majority voice. There were shrill voices earlier as well, but now they get amplified. All governments have pandered to these voices. And when everybody is a beneficiary of violence, nobody wants to find a solution.”

There is a section which is busy re-imagining the role of Akbar as well. “Many in the government have watched the play and everyone praised it. The story has been well accepted as part of cultural legacy and the way ‘Mughal-e-Azam’ does it, it doesn’t hurt anybody’s history, assumed or real.” Also, adds Khan, no matter what anybody does, there is something very fundamental about our civilisation. “If we have people who want to stop something, there will be more people rising in support of it. It may be at the political level but at the social and cultural level we haven’t reached a stage where a part of history could be erased.”

Khan gives it to K.Asif and the writers of ‘Mughal-e-Azam’, which included Ka-



Neha Sargam as Anarkali; Nissar Khan and Dhanveer Singh as Akbar and Salim respectively in scenes from “Mughal-e-Azam: The Musical” ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, V. SUDERSHAN

mal Amrohi and Wajahat Mirza, for presenting the syncretic culture in all its beauty on screen.

“When Akbar goes to war, he kisses an amulet and applies tilak on the forehead. He sits through Janamashtmi celebrations. There is Man Singh and Durjan to present all shades of characters. The writers were very clear while writing that they were creating a narrative that was very inclusive. There is no literal reference but you can see strands of Akbar’s faith in Din-e-Ilahi. In 16th century, he thought of bringing together the best of all the religions under one umbrella.”

That’s not all. The voice of the Sangtarash (the sculptor who narrates the

tale), says Khan, is the voice of the progressive writers.

“He challenges the imperial power. When the film was being written, the resistance against the imperialistic forces was very strong. The writers took advantage of the atmosphere. Suggesting Salim would be a democratic ruler was certainly ridiculous, but the fact is when you listen to the song ‘Zindabad Zindabad’, you feel as if Salim would be the voice of the voiceless. I think they were creating a great entertaining story but they were also putting these little things to make it very inclusive.”



Class struggle

He reminds how “Kagaz Ke Phool” was blown away by “Mughal-e-Azam”. “People at that time could not understand the angst of a writer. They identified more with class struggle. All the successful films of that time had an element of class struggle - It’s the common man who had aspirations, it was the common man who won. It was perhaps because they were the ones who were watching cinema. There were no multiplex audience to cater to.” Even in Anarkali’s love, Khan sees an element of class conflict. “In a way, she asks why a common man cannot aspire to love, why a common person is expected to live within boundaries or limits. And she pays a price for breaking the shackles.”

Khan has augmented the character of sculptor, and describes it as a sort of “Brechtian device” to caution against growing hegemonic tendencies in the power structure. “But I could not have made him go beyond the structure of the narrative. Within the structure of ‘Mughal-e-Azam’, we have layered it a lot.” Talking about the acting style and language, Khan says, in the film there

were four different styles at play. “If Prithivraj Kapoor as Akbar was bombastic, Dilip Kumar underplayed as Salim. Madhubala’s face was enough to convey the pain her character went through and then there was Durga Khote as a nice, elegant foil to Kapoor. We haven’t diluted the language but bombastic acting can’t work now. Youngsters makes fun of that. So our Akbar is not loud. I wanted him to be more intimate. Also, one need not have a booming voice to be powerful. The powerful people don’t even speak loudly. It is a misconception created by popular culture.”

Khan makes it clear that he never wanted to do an imitation of K.Asif’s “Mughal-e-Azam”. “We are doing an interpretation; carrying the legacy forward in a different medium.” The majestic projections play an important part in creating the medieval ambience on stage. Working in sync with his New York-based production designer Neil Patel, Khan visualised the whole play on paper. “I have a voluminous book with me now. I gave Neil and the light designer a scene-by-scene break down and the thought behind the emotions. If



the intensity of light goes up even slightly, you can’t see the projection. All of it has to be very precise.”

Against the image?

This Broadway kind of production doesn’t go with the image of Khan, known for his content-rich plays like “Tumhari Amrita” and “Salesman Ram Lal”. “I don’t agree with the perception that everything that is big has to be shallow. “Mughal-e-Azam”, the film, is a fine example of this. According to me, its screenplay is a piece of literature. Every scene has a conflict and has one *raison* or the other.” It works the other way as well. Referring to “Tumhari Amrita”, Khan reminds when he was doing ‘minimalistic’ work, people told him that audience would doze off watching two persons read letters for two hours. “One thing you should be careful about is that the form should not overpower the content. That balance is extremely important. I have tried to manage that in all my work.” Also, he adds, some people think he only works for himself. “Then there are some who now feel that I work for the audience. My thinking is that I must be doing it for the au-

dience and I must be doing it for myself as well. One must be aware of both - and I don’t pander to the audience,” avers Khan.

But in a musical, it is hard to find the subtext that he is used to work with. “In ‘Mughal-e-Azam’, the characters say a lot,” he laughs. “We had no problem in finding the subtext. What would you add to a potent line like Janaze ko rukhsat ki ijazat dijiye...”

The “Padmaavat” episode also indicates the growing self-censorship among creative people. “The threat keeps coming when political groups try to consolidate a constituency by spreading prejudice. I don’t think it will work. I made ‘Dekh Tamasha Dekh’, a political satire, without any problem. When I was doing ‘Tumhari Amrita’, people raised doubts about how it will be accepted by a section of the society. It worked. Majority of people in this country don’t believe in divisive ideology.”

Having said that he adds one must keep in mind that freedom of expression also demands responsibility. “I believe in thorough research and once I am sure of my facts, nothing can stop

me. When I was planning to shoot “Gandhi, My Father” in Porbandar in 2005, people were apprehensive about my credentials to make a film on their beloved leader. But once they saw my preparation, all the doors were opened for me.”

Looking for his next challenge, Khan says, he constantly keeps asking himself whether he is becoming stagnant, whether he has stopped growing. He is returning to entertainment in education with “Main Kuch Bhi Kar Sakti Hoon” which spreads the message of family planning. “It is very dear to me.” And yes, he is returning to the kind of plays that made him one of the stars of theatre world. “I am reviving ‘Salesman Ram Lal’ with Satish Kaushik. It is very dear to me. And then I am mounting an original play called ‘Masiha Tonight’. It is about a television anchor who believes that he has all the answers. I have been dreaming about it for a long time and hopefully I would be able to execute that,” signs off Khan.

(“Mughal-e-Azam:The Musical” will be staged till 11th February at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.)

Making of a magnum opus

Deepesh Salgia on the emotional connect of Shapoorji Pallonji with “Mughal-e-Azam”

Once K.Asif convinced Shapoorji Pallonji to invest in his dream, the company committed itself to the project for generations. Feroz Abbas Khan says he went to the company for the rights, thinking it has nothing to do with theatre production but was surprised to find them eager to back the play. Deepak Salgia, one of the directors of the company, who has provided creative and strategic vision to the production, says after the colour version of the film, the company was looking for newer ways to keep the classic alive in public imagination. “Though we have nothing to do with film production, but when it comes to ‘Mughal-e-Azam’ we don’t give even its distribution rights to anybody. There is an emotional connection with the film. This is perhaps the only film which is centrally distributed.”

Khan says Salgia, who played a crucial role in the colour version of the film, was integral in imagining the contours of the play as well. “Also, the kind of logistic support that is required in Delhi, is possible only because of the company. We had to start from scratch at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. The stage is double the size of the one in Mumbai. So it required a new and bigger set, double the dancers and other infrastructure.”

A product of IIT Madras, Salgia has full faith in the reach of ‘Mughal-e-Azam’. “When we coloured it in 2004, I had an idea to showcase it at my alma mater. So I decided to create a subtitled version so that all the students could understand.” As subtitling was not as common, there remained some glitches and Salgia discovered during the screening that 15-20 minutes of the film ran without subtitles. “Still there was pin drop silence in the auditorium. Such is the power of its dialogues”

The Delhi experience

Though infrastructure was a problem in Delhi, Khan loved the response of audience in Delhi. “I could see three generations of a family watching in Delhi. The response from the youth was amazing. Also, the familiarity with the language meant that Delhi audience understood the nuances better than the Mumbai crowd. They clapped at places where the actors didn’t expect them to. Like Neha Sargam, who plays Anarkali, says she was surprised when the audience clapped when she said, ‘kanto ko murjhane ka khauf nahin hota!’”



Coming alive with ankle bells

Odissi dancers showcased their mettle at the annual Mukteswar Dance Festival

NITA VIDYARTHI

Every year on the auspicious day of Makar Sankranti, the three-day Mukteswar Dance Festival at Bhubaneswar is inaugurated at the 10th Century magnificent Mukteswar Temple, that comes alive with the ankle bells of reputed Odissi dancers from all over the country. Organised by the Odisha Tourism, the prestigious festival in solo, duet and group format opened this year, with a striking invocation “Mritunjaya Makaradhwajanashakaya” to Lord Mukteswar, the presiding deity, by Namrata Joshi, a senior disciple of Daksha Mashruwala. The “Prathana Vandana”, was composed by Pandit Nityananda Misra. In “Madhyama”, the Pallavi was set to the delightful ragas of Abhogi and Rageshree in talas Rupak and Triputa respectively. It was a captivating piece in terms of composition, execution and music. However, the Ashtapadi “Kishalaya Shyanataley” remained ordinary with the music and singing by Manoj Joshi overpowering the mediocre abhinaya. Bijan Palai and Rudraprasad Swain, versatile dancers trained at the Orissa Dance Academy by Guru Aruna Mohanty wove magic in their duet “Ektali”, Khamaj Pallavi set to Bijay Kumar Jena’s music in Mohanty’s choreography. “Sakha Bodha” scripted by Kedar Misra explored the confrontation in friendship between two sets of characters viz. Krishna and Arjuna and Karna and Duryodhana from Mahabharata. The otherwise interesting concept failed to appeal due to the lack of sequence and clarity in the script in spite of the dancers doing full justice to Mohanty’s fascinating choreography with the melodious musical support. Rojalin Mohapatra’s group began with a well-rehearsed “Bho Shambho” followed by an interesting tale of “Surpanaka” which brought to the fore her meditation at Pushkar desiring Lord Ram after being refused by the “Ekapatnibrata Purushottam” and humiliated by Lakshman in the Treta Yug and her rebirth as Kubja in the Dapar Yug. Credit must be given to Pandit Nityananda Misra to script the enriching piece embracing the “Brahmabai-varta Puran”. Rojalin appealed as Surpanakha; so did the refreshing pink and white costumes of the dancers even though the presentation was lack-lustre.

Best presentations

The second evening saw the best presentations in the festival beginning with “Panchabhuta” by a matured soloist Shalini Patnaik. Choreographed by Aruna Mohanty, set to music and singing by Ramhari Das, a gratifying “Panchabhuta” was followed by “Rudramangala”, an ode to Shiva.

Armed with strong sense of balance, technical skills and understanding, Shalini brought alive the various manifestations of Rudra and his avatars confidently, doing justice to Mohanty’s choreography, Bijay Kumar Jena’s music and Kedar Misra’s enriching script. Her body inflections and graceful lyrical movements in “Surangani Kallolini Ganga” brought out the brilliance of the poetry and music. Here is a dancer to watch! “Bibhas Suddha Dhaivat Pallavi” the duet by Srjan’s well-trained Sipra Swain and Aiswarya Singhdev choreographed by Ratikant Mohapatra, set to music by Pradip Das showed their grip over rhythm followed by a competent “Ardhanareeswar” originally choreographed as a solo by Kelubabu and later as an imaginative duet by Ratikant set to the originally score of Guru Raghunath Panigrahi. The dancers kept Srjan’s flag flying with their riveting performance. “Padmavati”, scripted by Pandit Nityananda Misra based on the Odia legend “Kanchi Bijay”, set to Bijoy Jena’s music, choreographed by Debamitra Sengupta, and presented by her well-co-ordinated group, was the most popular group event of the festival. Debamitra made good use of the sprawling stage and the war scene between Kanchi and Gajapati Maharaja’s army was a pleasure to watch and kept the audience in hold till the end. Herself a charming dancer, she excelled as daiwali (curdseller).

The concluding evening began with obeisance to Mother Earth and a dampened Ravan Kruta Shiva Tandava by an otherwise accomplished dancer Gayatri Chand, a senior, learned disciple of Guru Debaprasad Das. She seemed to be not in best of form, also in the next piece Navarasa, choreographed by Das. The duet by well-groomed Sarita Misra and Manisha Manaswini was resplendent with grace and opalescence. Hamsadhwani Pallavi showed wonderful formations and execution with the intricacies and the complexities of the rhythm and vocal by Bijay Jena. The various attitude of Lord Krishna was brought out delicately in the Odia abhinaya “Sajani Mohana Murati Chhayilo” penned by Banamali. The curtain came down with the manglacharan “Shadadharachakrey”, an impressive Chandrika-Kamodi Pallavi and the vigorous presentation “Mahakali Stuti” by the powerful and involved dancers of Bichitrnanda Swain and Group.



MOHAPATRA.

Shalini Patnaik ■ ARABINDA

A musical extravaganza

The three-day Udaipur World Music Festival promises a varied fare of classical and popular music

SHAILAJA KHANNA

Udaipur, as the state of Mewar’s capital city, has been a musical centre for centuries. The rulers of Mewar were big patrons of the arts, and had the best musicians at their court. From the time of Maharana Kumbha in the 15th Century, Mewar has been associated with the arts. In fact, Maharana Kumbha is himself credited with writing treatises on music, and is said to have been a very fine veena player. Meera Bai, the Krishna bhakta, who is credited with composing many devotional poems set to music too was daughter-in-law of Rana Sanga of Mewar. Despite the annual Maharana Kumbha Music Festival instituted around 60 years ago to keep up Udaipur’s link with music, the city is not really associated with music now. That looks to change with the initiative taken by Rajasthan Tourism and Delhi-based cultural event management company Seher by holding the Udaipur World Music Festival. Now in its 3rd edition, the festival this year will be held from February 9 to 11, with music events starting from the morning onwards, at various venues so different audiences are attracted to attend the totally free festival.

Well-structured

The concerts are well structured - the morning concerts focus on meditative, classical concerts; the afternoon concerts offer mixed fare, and it is in the evening concerts that the focus is fully on the popular. No concert is to exceed an hour, thus giving the audience different sounds to sample. The bands are chosen from all over the world - Thailand, Philippines, Europe, Middle East, Latin America, Israel, and offer diverse sounds; extremely musical and cosmopolitan. Sanjiv Bhargava from Seher has carefully structured a festival that will have mass appeal. There are different venues for the concerts adding to the exotic attraction of the event - Ambrai Ghat, in a garden overlooking the lake; Fateh Sagar Paal, which is an exotic island in the middle of the Fateh Sagar Lake, Gandhi Ground, a huge outdoor space for the evening concerts.

The first day starts only with evening concerts - the talented instrumentalists of the Italian group Oi Dipnoi kick off proceedings at 7 p.m., followed by the incredibly versatile Flavia Coelho from Brazil, whose music defies the label “Latino”; she is followed by India’s own very best selling trio; Shankar Ehsaan and Loy.

On 10th concerts start with the Hindustani vocalist Subhadra



Carnatic vocalist Aruna Sairam and French classical tenor Dominique Vellard, (below) Shankar Mahadevan
■ H.S. MANJUNATH

Desai, at 9 a.m. After her recital will be the Trio Chemrani with artists from France Spain and Greece. In the afternoon will be the India born, US-based guitarist Shubh Saran, who is making waves after the release of his first album Hmayra last year. The evening concerts are scheduled from 7 p.m. onwards starting with the Thai group Asia 7. Himalayan folk singer Bipul Chettri and The Travelling Band are slotted next, followed by a completely different sound in the French group Nojazz, with elements of electronic music, soul and jazz.

The last day starts with a sitar recital by Delhi-based Dhruv Bedi, who despite being only 26, has already performed in front of over 13 Heads of State on various occasions. His concert will be followed by the ever popular Carnatic vocalist Aruna Sairam, joined by French classical tenor Dominique Vellard. The two, despite belonging to different genres have collaborated musically for years, and as Aruna Sairam puts it “over the years we have constantly innovated on the repertoire we present together.



When we first started singing together in Europe, I stayed at the family home in France to understand his music better. For this concert, Dominique came to Chennai to spend time working on our act twice last year; the innovation this time will be a narrative in English connecting the two musical cultures through antique literature - ancient Tamil poetry for me and French and Latin poems for Dominique.” Another converging point is that the accompanists - violin and khanjira for the percussion element, will be the same for both singers. Aruna revealed that the fact that she sings in a low female pitch, and Dominique is a male tenor, singing in a high pitch has enabled them sing together in ‘F’.

The afternoon concerts will feature Amine and Hazra, the two instrumentalist brothers on “oud” and “qanun”, who will perform a confluence of Arabic music. followed by the Mumbai-based Anand Bhaskar Collective. Brainchild of lead singer Anand Bhaskar, the group of musicians brings in a strong instrumental element in their music, and can loosely be called as an Indian rock band with elements of classical music. The evening concerts start with the Buttering Trio from Israel, a trio that makes gentle, soothing music followed by the Philippines-based, six-artist Indie folk band, The Ransom Collective. The festival ends with the very popular Spanish group, Txarango, whose very upbeat music is bound to resonate in Indian hearts, despite the constraints of language.

If you love music, Udaipur is indeed the place to be in next week.

Modest man, majestic voice

In conversation with Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan, who has just added one more feather to his illustrious cap

MANJARI SINHA

Awards have been a constant with Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan. The latest is the Padma Vibhushan. The octogenarian Ustad feels blessed and humbly acknowledges, “Ye sab uski meharbani, bu-zurgon ki aur aap jaise azeezon ki duaon ka asar hai” (all this is due to the grace of the almighty, blessings of elders and good wishes of well-wishers like you)."

Born in Badaun (Uttar Pradesh) on 3rd March 1931 to Ustad Waris Hussain Khan in a family of musicians in the illustrious lineage of the Rampur Sahaswan Gharana that boasts of names like Ustad Inayat Hussain Khan, Ustad Fida Hussain Khan, Ud. Mushtaq Hussain Khan, Ud. Nissar Hussain Khan and the likes, Ud. Ghulam Mustafa Khan was initiated into classical music by his father. His mother was the daughter of Ustad Inayat Hussain Khan, who was the son-in-law of Ud. Haddu Khan, the pioneer of Gwalior Gharana. Thus having the privilege of learning under the guidance of Ud. Fida Hussain Khan and his grandfather Ud. Inayat Hussain Khan, he imbibed the best of both the gharanas.

He remembers the long hours of riyaz (musical exercise) during his childhood and adolescence that enabled him to reach the deepest depth of the lower octave to the highest reaches of ati taar saptak, meandering through three and a half octaves at ease. No wonder, he started performing all over and became a graded artiste of All India Radio (AIR) at a very young age.

Responding to the query about his work on 'Jaati-Gaan', mentioned in the old treatise like "Sangeet Ratnakar" of Sharangdeva, with Acharya K.C. Deva Brihaspati, he first had a hearty laugh remembering how the Acharya spotted him for this project. "He (Acharya Brihaspati) had spent a long time in Rampur, interacting with the court musicians of those days, so he knew me from the times I was a toddler. Later once he heard me when I was performing in a concert, perhaps the National Programme of Music on AIR, where he was the officer in-charge. When I took a sapaat taan encompassing three-and-a-half saptak and stood for a while on the



Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan in performance ■ AFP

komal rishabh, before coming to the shadja, he found that I have an inclination towards the Shrutis. After the programme, he asked me to assist him for this project because I was the only one he had come across till then, who could practically prove his point by demonstrating it by singing."

Association with films

Replying to how he got associated with films, he remembered that first he started singing for Marathi and Gujarati films. Mrinal Sen's "Bhuvan Shome" was perhaps the first Hindi film he sang for. Then Pt. Vijay Raghav Rao asked him to sing for "Badnaam Basti". As a composer/singer he made waves with the Jhoola song "Jhoola kin, dara ri amriyan..." for the unforgettable film "Umrao Jaan" by Muzaffar Ali. Who can forget the melodious Ragamala from Bhairav to Bhairavi, where one sees Rekha growing up from an innocent teenager to the beautiful young woman as the time

cycle of the ragas gradually proceeds from the morning Bhairav composition "Pratham dhar dhyaan Shri Ganesh..." to mid-morning Todi "Ab mori naiya paar karo tum...", the noon raga Shuddha Sarang "Sagun bicharo Bamhana..." to the afternoon Bhimpalasi "Biraj mein dhoom machai aaj", the evening Yaman "Darshan deho Shankar Mahadev..." to the midnight Malkauns "Pakrat bahiyaan..." reaching the concluding Bhairavi Bandish "Baansuri baja rahi...". On how the idea of Ragamala came to his mind, he said that Muzaffar Ali explained to him what he exactly wanted and he thought of the Ragamala according to the time theory of the raga. "I preferred to take the traditional compositions here, since it also had to do with the taleem, the musical training of the girls."

He was a bit hesitant to share that he had played the role of Baiju Bawra in a German documentary film shot in Jaipur, where he also sang for himself. He has sung for and composed music for many documentaries made by the Films Division, many of whom went on to win the National Award.

Apart from being a reputed vocalist of the Rampur Sahaswan Gharana, Khan Saheb is equally comfortable singing and composing the semi classical Thumri-Dadra to Sugam Sangeet and Ghazal. He is a sought after Guru as well.

Apart from his nephew, the classical vocalist Ud. Rashid Khan, many of the playback singers have also taken guidance in singing from him right from Asha Bhosle, Kamal Barot, Hariharan to Sonu Nigam and Shan. His

four sons, Ghulam Murtuza, Ghulam Qadir, Rabbani Mustafa and Ghulam Hasan Khan are, of course, trained by him only..

Among his relatives the young vocalist of this Gharana, Ghulam Abbas Khan, the son and disciple of Ud. Ghulam Sadiq Khan is a great fan of Khan Saheb. He says, "I have done his hero worship right from my childhood. His music is vast and hence he can sing the sampoorana ragas with great facility, without bothering about the challenging situations. I was inspired by his sapaat and lachchhe-daar (complicated) taans of three-and-a-half saptak and tried to imitate him. He has composed first rate bandishes (compositions) sung by the musicians all over, like the bandish in raga Bhathiyar "Tarpai beeti sagri rain...", which he has dedicated to his Guru Nisar Hussain Khan, where the antara (second half of the composition) goes 'Nisar Piya ko kou manao, baat takat thake nain'. His Yaman bandish, "Aao Balma...", with 'Firat' ki taan woven into it, is an ideal composition to season your voice."

Soulful ghazals

On the secret of his soulful ghazal compositions, the Padma Vibhushan awardee admits that he is fond of reading good poetry. In fact, he has no other hobby except music and poetry. "Pahle Ghaliyaat ko dil se mehsoos karta hoon tab jaakar compose kar paata hoon, ho sakta hai yahi vajeh ho! (I first feel the poetry from the depth of my heart and soul, then only try to compose it. This may be the secret you wanted to know!)

A class apart

The splendour of Rampur Durbar shines forth in the music of Rampur Sahaswan Gharana. which is an amalgamation of inputs from many Gharanas. Since Ud. Inayat Khan learnt from Ud. Haddu Khan, the pioneer of Gwalior Gharana; the significant features like the 'Tehraav' of Gwalior came in automatically. Most of the musicians of Dilli Durbar took shelter under Nawab Rampur after the dynasty was ruined, hence the influence of musicians of Dilli and other Gharanas who adorned the Delhi court, came in. Then musicians of Awadh like Kadar Piya and Sanad Piya brought the influence of Lucknow and styles like Thumri, Dadra and Tappa. All these influences merged with the royal splendour of Rampur Darbar. One can clearly see the significant features of his gharana in Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan's gayaki like the combined elements of Dhrupad, dhamar, khayal, tappa, thumri, etc, alap in nom tom like syllables not just akar. Aesthetics with virile singing and a combination of melodic and rhythmic excellence, the chhoot taans, sargam taans, tarana, bandishi thumri, composition studded with taans and best of all, focus not just on speed but repose as well.

He is one of the ideal representatives of his gharana but what sets him apart is his versatility, as a classical vocalist who is totally in command whether singing khayal, thumri, tarana and equally at ease as a ghazal singer, an imaginative composer and the most sought after guru, who can chisel anyone from classical to light classical, ghazal or singing for films!

K.K. GOPALAKRISHNAN

Balan Nambiar is an artist with several exceptions and firsts to his credit. As his creative works and research on ritual art celebrate his six decades of artistic life, the National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru, will hold a month-long retrospective of this veteran painter turned enamellist and sculptor.

A few years ago, while honouring Balan Nambiar at a function in Bengaluru, the late U.R. Ananthamurthy commented, "while his research work is based in Kerala, the soil for his creative works is Karnataka." That was a clear analysis of Balan Nambiar, whose base has been Bengaluru since 1971.

Why Bengaluru? "At some point of time during my Madras days and during the final year of the course at the Fine Arts College there, I had an inner call that I must move. There were emotional conflicts between my guru, the late KCS Paniker, and me and I thought I must leave the place, which, while looking back today, I think was the correct decision."

When Nambiar landed in Bengaluru in 1971, he had nothing in his pocket to sustain a living. The Brothers' Holy Cross provided free facilities to conduct art classes for adults on the condition that he had to teach to four of their inmates without fees. Since 1971, he has been conducting classes for drawings and painting to children without charging fee; his lineage of artists has now crossed 2,000.

"Fortunately in my entire artistic career, right from my initial days, I was able to make a life through the sale of my works. There were ups and downs, there were periods that I had to manage with minimum comfort but somehow sustenance was ensured," adds Nambiar whose first exhibition was in 1967 before joining the College of Fine Arts.

Nambiar is the only Indian sculptor, who has conducted a solo exhibition of stainless steel sculptures and enamel paintings on silver and copper. He is also known for his outdoor sculptures. Till 1999 he was doing sculptures on iron (normal steel); from 2000 onwards, it is mainly on stainless steel. About 100 stainless steel sculptures have been done by him so far.

Earlier Nambiar had worked with clay, wood, fibreglass reinforced concrete (GRC), bronze, etc. as well.

Nambiar's method of sculpting is through a variety of processes such as making the sketches, drawings in various angles, computer generated designs, laser cutting, water jet cutting, TIG-welding, grinding, polishing and assembling. Inspired by the concept of *Kannadibimbam* – mirror idol – which is a strong ethos of Indian culture, especially in Kerala, he made several arresting mirror forms in stainless steel.

Enamel painting

Nambiar pioneered the intricate jewellery enamel paintings on silver and copper in modern India, even though enamelling as an art form was prevalent in the country since the Mughal period, probably through the European goldsmiths associated with them. Enamel colours are not produced in India and those used by artisans were limited in range. A few of the Indian artists who tried jewellery enamel paintings have used limited colours and techniques. Further, the works are highly restricted in size.

Paolo De Poli, considered the father of modern jewellery enamel paintings, was Nambiar's father-in-law. When he understood that Nambiar's creations were different in technique, colour and concepts and he had a passion for using a variety of colour combinations and larger dimensions, he extended all



Balan Nambiar at his Bangalore residence

Metal mania

Veteran artist Balan Nambiar's installations and art works of steel and bronze will be on display at the exhibition in Bangalore

facilities of his studio to Nambiar and asked him to work more with enamel.

Hailing from Kannapuram in Kannur district, Nambiar started his career as a drawing teacher in a High School in Kunissery, Palakkad. Soon he quit joined Southern Railway in Chennai as a draughtsman. A meeting with Paniker changed the course for the young aspirant. "During my visit to an exhibition, I met Akkitham Narayanan, who told me that Paniker would be happy to meet me as he had heard from the catalogue of the Dussara Exhibition about my winning prizes," recalls Nambiar. "I met Paniker and he thought I should take up art as my profession."

It was Paniker who advised Nambiar to join The Madras Art Club which was functioning at the college. Keen on becoming a full-time student at the College of Fine Arts under Paniker, Nambiar resigned from the Railways a year before Paniker's retirement.

It was Nambiar who plotted the land at

Cholamandal and made the layout drawings using his technical background as a draughtsman. "Paniker was a great mentor. His greatness lay in the fact that he was exceptional in spotting talent," observes Nambiar.

Nambiar's association with metal sculptures started after he settled in Bengaluru. Shankar Hegde, whom he knew during his Madras days and who owned a factory in Kanakapura Road, suggested Nambiar make a metal sculpture. After the first sculpture, Hegde asked him to do more work by offering the facilities, while the raw materials were procured by Nambiar. Hard work led to a solo exhibition of 24 garden sculptures, first in India, in the lawn of Hotel Ashoka in 1975.

The breakthrough

What would he call the crucial breakthrough in his career? "From my college days to 1977, almost every year I used to conduct a solo exhibition and paintings and sculptures were sold regularly. In 1974 I had an exhibition in Mumbai. Air India bought two of my paintings and in exchange I was offered a ticket to go to anywhere in Europe. I used the offer in 1977. With the help of the Malayalam novelist M. Mukundan, who was working at the French Embassy, I got an invitation from France for a 21-day visit. I was invited also to visit Germany by the German government. Combining these

trips I visited almost all the significant museums."

Nambiar discovered a new medium in the process. At the South Asian Institute at Heidelberg, where he presented his works, a person from the audience asked him whether he could do a sculpture with a new medium. The suggestion was GRC. After a visit to the R&D of Portland Cement, Nambiar I accepted the offer. He made a sculpture with GRC within four weeks and it was exhibited at the Constructa-78, at Hannover.

Nambiar's stay was extended for four months during which he made five more sculptures. With the money, he stayed on for 11 months in Europe visiting nine countries and every important museum. "It opened a window to a panoramic view of European and African art," describes Nambiar.

Back in Bangalore, where he returned, challenges waited. The building in which he was living at Brothers' Holy Cross had been demolished and his belongings were scattered. Nambiar made a new beginning by resuming his free art classes for children. On an invitation from Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, he presented an illustrated lecture at India International Centre, Delhi which was another break. It was in 1980.

Next summer he was invited to visit Kashmir. In Srinagar, Dr Karan Singh, who was present at his lecture at IIC, advised him to apply for Nehru Fellowship. That was in 1981 and he got it. "After that till date I have not signed an application for any fellowship or grant or award, but many came in search of me," says Nambiar.

Nambiar thinks it is high time India has a few Institutes of Fine Arts of world class. Nambiar submitted a paper on the necessity of a law in India to protect works of art in public spaces because works are stolen or lost forever. In 2004, one of his commissioned works installed at Lavelle Road in Bangalore was removed by the police using bulldozers and not even a piece of steel used for it could be retrieved. A photograph of the sculpture will find a prominent place in the retrospective at the NGMA, Bangalore.

What are the recurring motifs in his creative works? A series of stainless steel sculptures of cactus depicts symbolically his autobiography. Cactus asserts its right to exist in the odd, uncongenial, hostile environment. Often he felt his life was like a cactus. Another motif often found in his creative works is cosmic spiral and the mathematical principles associated with it.

Celebrating an artistic journey

Curated by Sadanand Menon, the NGMA will hold a month-long retrospective of his creative work and research on ritual art to celebrate six decades of his artistic career from February 4 onwards, marked by an unconventional inauguration.

Why 'unconventional'? "My life is also unconventional. An ensemble of live mizhavu led by Kalamandalam Sajith Vijayan followed by lighting of altar wicks by students who had attended my art classes since 1971 would be the main event of the inaugural function."

There will be sketches and drawings in Indian ink, charcoal, pastels and paintings in water colour and oil, apart from photographs of the ritual arts of the west coast of South India. About 60 jewellery enamel paintings on silver and copper, all done at the studio of Paolo De Poli, in Italy, might be significant in the Indian art context. Sculptures in bronze, mild steel and about 50 stainless steel sculptures both indoors and out-door will be on show. In addition, lectures, panel discussions, gallery walks for the visitors and musical programmes are planned.

Special gallery walks will be arranged for groups of students of architecture and the fine arts. Nambiar himself will be giving three lectures on topics such as Golden Ratio, Fibonacci sequences and Fractals in Mathematics, Nature and the Arts; Comparative study of Bhutas of South Canara and Theyyams of North Kerala; and On Children's Art Education.

Going Native

Finding elegance in scrap

Poets Lalit Magotra and Darshan Darshi are espousing the cause of Dogri language through their imaginative works

SHAFEEY KIDWAI

Does the much-admired creativity explore inherent potentiality of untidiness, not visible to ordinary human eye? Does it also invite us to go beyond the abiding passion for putting things in order? The answer “Yes” has been poignantly told in an elegant Dogri poem “Making of Scrapheap” (Khalar). The poem, composed by a celebrated Dogri poet Lalit Magotra, is published in a reputed Hindi quarterly, “Hindi Jagat”. The journal edited by an eminent Hindi poet Suresh Rituparna carried three poems of Lalit in its latest issue. The poem “Khalar” presents an alternative perspective in contrast with an intense disdain for things lying in bits and pieces:

“My wife/gets angry/As I toss my books and paper everywhere/ My house is filled with the litter/ She does not know/ These unread books, incomplete notes/ These rubbed and curved lines/ Early signs of poems/ All parts of my life’s dustbin/ It is my life/ I also know/ When times change/ A rag and bone man will wrap up it all/ The way the rag picker of time carrying dirty bag on his back/ Collects the past life and goes away/The house maker does not know/ Life produces junk all around/Death bundles up the litter.”

Lalit, casting a satirical eye on a subject that does not get talked about, explores an array of non-visible feelings and the poem



Lalit Magotra, (below) Padma

Sachdev ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

produces a subtle intrigue that pulls one into the poem, makes us more alive to the vanished truth.

Lalit Magotra, who got Sahitya Akademi Award for his collection of essays, “Chetan Diyan Galiyan” in 2011, writes in a language Dogri, spoken about five million people in India and Pakistan. In the second poem, “Many a times poetry”, the poet seeks to demystify the process of writing poetry and creatively asserts that poem is essentially an idea of text that the poet himself cannot readily pin down, the more he tries to find appropriate words, the more apt words escape him. The poem pro-

The term Dogri was first used by famous Persian poet and sufi saint Amir Khusro in his long epic poem “Nu Sephar”. Dogri is spoken in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. It has become one of the popular languages of Northern India. Many literary genres are making their presence felt in Dogri and recently Lalit Magotra published translation of his Dogri poems in Hindi

duces an air of amused astonishment and it also makes it clear that most ordinary things create a more lasting impression than serious.

Creative dexterity

Not much is known about the rich legacy of Dogri language and literature with the exception of Padma Sachdeva whose creative dexterity got wide acclaim in literary circles and she bagged Sahitya Akademi Award and Saraswati Samman for her collection of poems “Meri Kavita aur Mere Geet”, (1971) and autobiography “Chitt Chete” (2015). She was also instrumental in persuading Lata Mangeshkar to sing some Dogri songs and it went a long way in popularising Dogri language.

The term Dogri was first used by famous Persian poet and sufi saint Amir Khusro in his long epic poem “Nu Sephar”. Dogri

is spoken in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. It has become one of the popular languages of Northern India. Many literary genres are making their presence felt in Dogri and recently Lalit Magotra published translation of his Dogri poems in Hindi. The book, carrying 80 poems titled as “Shabda Se Maun Tak”, seeks to explore inner potentiality of the silence as majority of poems do not necessarily provide the reader with full explanation and they unfailingly create a sense of creeping unease. The themes of incompleteness, fragility and pause are revisited with a marked sense of introspection.

Besides novel, short story, drama and poetry, a new genre personal and light essay has become very popular in the contemporary Dogri literature and recently a prominent Dogri poet Darshan Darshi, whose collection of poems “Kore Kaal Korian Talian” won the Sahitya Akademi award in 2006, published a selection of his essays “Musings from My Attic”, which carries twenty-nine short essays on various traits, values and human follies.

Authors across the globe are worried about the future of book in a completely digitalized world. Darshi too talks about the survival of book and he suggests a new means to take on the likes of Facebook and digital publication. One such method is Book Crossing where a physical book travels across and also takes assistance from the same monitor which is feared to be killing the future of books.

Book crossing has a simple idea. Share books with strangers if you can, leave a book at a café, on the top of an ATM, the train station, anywhere that someone might find it. That person reads the book and releases it into the ‘wild’ again after letting you know where he found it and what he thought of it.

If Darshi’s advice is adhered to, it will certainly produce more argumentative Indian, not intolerant Indians as many writers fear.

Telling Voices

Overcoming dramatic obstacles

Would I Have This Look On My Face?”, Alan Alda drives home the point that a writer needs to explain his/her experiences in overcoming hurdles to make a compelling read

SUDHAMAH REGUNATHAN

he walked across the stage with a glass of water. The audience held their breath as she did so, “...and if a bead of water goes down the glass, you can hear them gasp...” says Alan Alda.

Even as you wonder what great suspense is held within that glass of water, Alan Alda, the American actor, says: “An engaging story is one that has a dramatic obstacle in it. The attempt to get past the obstacle, to get where you are going, to achieve what you are trying to, makes it an interesting story. So my guess is instead of leaving out your mistakes, the problems you have in achieving something, whether it is science or an interview...are the elements that make for a good story.” So, Alda told the audience that if the girl spilt even a drop of water, all her villagers would be dead...an imaginary situation, albeit, it kept the audience interested. And this is the essence of communication.

Alda’s book, “If I Understood You, Would I Have This Look On My Face?” is all about communication and miscommunication, particularly between scientists and civilians. It begins with a personal anecdote, “I was at a dentist’s office in the chair ready to have him start an operation on my gum... he’s got the scalpel ready to poke me in the

face with it. He says: “Now, there will be some tethering.” I said: “Pardon me?” I was too impressed by his surgical gown to say: ‘Put the knife down and tell me what you mean by tethering’. I let him go ahead with the operation and it turned out that it changed my smile...”

Serious ending

Alda says: “People are dying because we can’t communicate in ways that allow us to understand one another...It sounds like an

exaggeration, but I don’t think it is. When patients can’t relate to their doctors and don’t follow their orders, when engineers can’t convince a town that the dam could break, when a parent can’t win the trust of a child to warn her off a lethal drug... they can all be headed for a serious ending.”

Alda did not sue his dentist, he took to running workshops for doctors on communication and even does improve exercises with them, “...to really get everybody accustomed to the idea that contact with the other person is essential, is a first step toward good communication. Because if you are thinking only about communication as having the perfect message regardless of how it lands on your audience, then you’re likely just to be spraying information at them and not really saying something to them that sticks.”

Alda says science fascinates. If scientists could communicate in a way that their passion could rub off on others, we would improve the general understanding out there.



Blast From The Past

The end of an era

Supriya Devi will be remembered for her image of a strong woman, both on and off screen

PARTHAJIT BARUAH

Neeta, suffering from tuberculosis, utters her last words, to her singer-brother, in agony : “Dada ami kintu banchte cheyechilam...Dada, tumi ek bar bolo, ami banchbo...dada ami banchbo... dada ami banchbo.. (Brother, I just wanted to live... tell me once that I will survive. I want to live...brother, I want to live)”.

Bengal's Sophia Loren

Known as one of the classic scenes in Indian cinema, these poignant and heart rending words of Neeta at the end of Ritwik Ghatak's cult film, “Meghe Dhaka Tara” (1960), still resonate in the minds of each and every sensitive cinema-goer. Supriya Devi's role as Neeta took her to the heights of a legend. In her career spanning more than five decades in Bengali film industry, she acted in over 45 films and later, emerged as one of the most prolific actresses in Bengali cinema.

Known as the Sophia Loren of Bengal, she breathed her last in her South Kolkata residence on January 26, following a massive cardio-respiratory failure. She left a huge void in the Bengali film industry and her death has brought the end of an era.

“Supriya Devi was an extremely brilliant artist and exceptionally unique. It was a great loss to the Bengali cinema,” says director Sandip Ray. Veteran filmmaker Buddhadeb Dasgupta remarks, “She was one of the best actresses in Indian cinema of her time. She ruled Bengali cinema for some time. Her demise has created a great vacuum in Bengali cinema.”

Supriya Devi was born on 8th January, 1933 in the Burmese town of Myitkyina. During World War II, her family left Burma and came to Calcutta in search of a secured life. Supriya started her acting career from an early age of seven. She acted in two plays *Shah Jehan* and *Nar Narayan*, directed by her father, Gopal Chandra Banerjee. Fondly called ‘Benu’ by her close associates, Supriya Chowdhury took the screen name as Supriya Devi. She made her debut in Nirmal Dey's Bengali classic film *Basu Paribar* (1952) as Uttam Kumar's sister, Sabitri Chattopadhyay. But she won the hearts of the audience through her splendid performance in Mangal Chakraborty's Bengali film, *Sonar Harin* (1959), where Uttam Kumar played the male protagonist.

The Uttam Kumar-Supriya

Devi duo, along with the other two hit pairs - Uttam-Suchitra, and Uttam-Sabitri, almost ruled the Bengali screen in the '50s and '60s. The lead pair Uttam-Supriya created magic through their superb romantic roles that enthralled a whole generation. The duo gifted the audience with blockbuster Bengali movies like “Chirodiner” (1969), “Sabarmati” (1969), “Baghbandi Khela” (1971), “Bon Palashir Padavali” (1973) and “Sanyasi Raja” (1975). Known as one of the finest actresses of her time, she played a variety of roles that captivated the audience as well as the critics. Roles like Chandramukhi in Dilip Roy's Bengali film “Devdas” (1979), where Uttam Kumar played the role of Chunnilal, Sujata in “Jodi Jantem” (1974), Ms. Karabi Guha in “Chowringhee” (1968), Sumitra in “Sabyasachi” (1977), reflected her versatility as an actress. Her role as a Bengali widow in “Lal Pathar” (1964) and a successful singer in “Bilambita Loy” (1970) got critical acclaim across the country.

She wonderfully performed the role of Anusuya in Ritwik Ghatak “Komal Gandhar” (1961), but it was Ghatak's “Meghe Dhaka Tara” (1960) that gave her a cult status. Popular Bengali film



Supriya Devi

actor Prosenjit Chakraborty said that every actress has a dream to play the role of Neeta and if one works in a classic film like *Meghe Dhaka Tara*, it will be like a life-changing moment. “Her performance as Neeta was exemplary.”

Her real-life relationship with Uttam Kumar created a furore among the middle class Bengali family in '60s and '70s. In spite of being a

married woman, she openly admitted her relationship with Uttam Kumar who was also married. Finally, she decided to live with Uttam Kumar as partners. They shifted to Mumbai to start new journey in Bollywood, but later, after the death of Uttam Kumar, she returned to Calcutta in the late 80s. She married Bishwanath Choudhury in 1954, and had a daughter named Soma. She

went against the wave because it was a daring task to speak openly about her relationship in a conservative and conventional Bengali society.

Supriya Devi also worked in Hindi films like “Begaana” (1963), “Aap Ki Parchhaiyan” (1964), “Door Gagan Ki Chhaon Mein” (1964), but her stint in Hindi films was short-lived. She turned down some offers as she was not satisfied with the roles offered to her. When cinema was trapped into the formulaic ingredients, she almost retired. But with the arrival of satellite television in '90s, she appeared on small screen by enacting a role in “Janani”, one of the most popular Bengali television serial on Doordarshan. She even hosted a show “Benu-dir Rannaghor” and it proved to be one of the most popular television shows. The last film where she acted as a grandmother was Mira Nair's “The Namesake” (2006).

Recipient of the Padma Shri and the Banga Vibhushan, West Bengal's highest civilian award, she will be remembered for her immense contribution to Bengali cinema. Her image as a strong woman in reel and real life will continue to linger in our minds.

Quick Five

The unconventional voice

ATIF KHAN

Richa Sharma, the versatile singer, who has given voice to many hit songs including the recent “Thumri Holi” in “Padmaavat” was in Delhi to perform at the recently concluded Delhi Bollywood Music Project. The artiste took time to talk about her journey, her unique voice and her love for devotional music.

How was the reception to your concert in Delhi?

Delhi is very close to my heart. I always want to come to Delhi and it is a privilege to regularly come here. I was born in Faridabad and my roots attached to this place. I have spent years learning music here and there are memories from the college years. I have undergone struggle here and

have done shows in every part of the city. Also the street food here always attracts me. My professional love may lie in Mumbai but the heart lies here.

How do you look back to your journey so far?

I am contented with what I have achieved. I feel proud with whatever I have done so far because I did it with passion and dedication. I did not face any big hurdles in my life though challenges were always there in my life. Good thing is I was able to get success at the end of the struggle and that gave me energy to continue my journey further.

Do you think your unconventional voice worked in your favour?

People always search a way to do something different in their work but I am blessed with a unique voice.

I do not have to adapt my voice to a character but I give my own touch to it. That way I was not typecast to a particular genre. I have sung melodies as well as item songs, and diversity is essential to a singer. I am also a Sufi singer and also sing semi-classical songs like a thumri for “Padmaavat”. I got a chance to experiment by singing comic songs, romantic songs and even a massage song (laughs).

You will surely find a song of your choice in my bucket.

Do you think that with so many singers around, there is a lack of stardom in singing?

It is good that there are many singers and no single artist is controlling the industry. As far as my stardom is concerned, people know me for my voice even though they do not recog-

nise me by pictures. Though many singers get recognised because of social media and live concert, I believe, it is voice which should be known and not face. Even singers singing singles are getting popularity and the meaning of stardom is changing.

It is good in a way people do not know me by face because I am enjoying my life as an ordinary person and I can go to a restaurant with my family and enjoy food without creating chaos (laughs). Even then if people make me star, I will be more than happy.

You are equally famous in independent and devotional space

I want to be known beyond Bollywood and that is why I make sure that I sing singles each year as people know you because of it. I al-



Richa Sharma ■ NAGARA GOPAL

ways inspire new singers to sing in independent space because you have to create your own market. Music has a large landscape, we have to spread out as much we can.

I am a spiritual person

and devotional music is my priority as it was earlier. It has given me my first stage and even though I choose my songs these days, I always pick up devotional first as it gives me inner happiness.